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WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

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["International Observers Roundtable" program with Professor Georgiy Ilich Mirskiy; Boris Georgiyevich Strelnikov, PRAVDA observer; and Anatoliy Ivanovich Ovsyannikov, political observer for Central Television and All-Union Radio]

Disarmament, U.S.-Soviet Ties

[Text] [Ovsyannikov] Good day, comrades. We would like to single out primarily among last week's international events those which are connected with the struggle for the in-depth development of detente and for disarmament. Preparations are getting under way in many countries for the special disarmament session of the UN General Assembly. In particular, such preparations are being made within the framework of the United Nations. Most of the UN member-states have spoken in favor of the immediate implementation of specific disarmament measures. Nor is there any doubt that the solution of this main problem of our times can also be promoted by the renewed Geneva talks between the Soviet Union, the United States and Great Britain. Those talks are aimed at formulating a treaty on a complete and universal ban on the testing of nuclear arms. Our listeners already know about the Soviet initiative in that sphere and about Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's proposal for a moratorium on peaceful nuclear explosions and a simultaneous ban on all nuclear arms tests. At the Geneva talks it has been noted that this is a major step permitting rapid and effective progress toward the formulation of the concrete terms of the treaty on a complete and universal ban on nuclear arms tests. It is obvious that in solving disarmament issues an important role is also played by bilateral negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States.

[Strelnikov] On this point, there is a USSR Supreme Soviet delegation in the United States right now, headed by Comrade Ponomarev, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of Nationalities, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. A couple of days ago, Comrade Ponomarev was received in the White House by President Carter; during their discussions, they touched on questions of the state of Soviet-American relations and a few other international problems. Carter said that the U.S. administration is interested in the further development of Soviet-American relations. Boris Nikolayevich Ponomarev in turn expounded the Soviet Union's principled policy, which is aimed at strengthening and developing detente and at further progress in Soviet-American relations.

It must be said that more and more Americans favor such progress, and a growing number of public figures and politicians are openly advocating that course. I would like to quote very briefly from an article by Charles Yost, a retired diplomat famous in the United States, who worked for a long time in the U.S. delegation to the United Nations. This retired American diplomat, criticizing the American hawks or opponents of detente, especially the so-called Committee on the Present Danger, wrote in the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR: There is indeed a danger, Yost wrote, but not where the committee's opponents of detente see it. It lies in the fact that a nuclear war may very well start from the gradual escalation of a conventional military or political conflict as long as nuclear weapons and distrust remain.

That is what that American says. But unfortunately, we must not forget that there are quite a number of opponents of detente too, and now they are better organized in such places as the Congress. In front of me I have a statement by another American, an opponent of detente, member of the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee Wilson.

Speaking at the committee's hearing on the Strategic Offensive Arms Limitation Talks, he said: In its present form, the draft treaty does not correspond to the best interests of the United States and the absence of a treaty is preferable.

[Ovsyannikov] That is the second viewpoint, and it is obviously people like Wilson who are behind the campaign and the pressure which the military-industry complex is now exerting to begin production of the neutron bomb.

[Strelnikov] Yes. But all the same, I think that the idea of disarmament, the idea that strategic arms must be reduced, is making more and more headway in America. Now I remember that at a symposium last year I spoke to an American professor who drew this comparison: Surely, he said, our people must understand--our people being the American ruling circles--that it is meaningless to increase armaments because the correlation itself remains unchanged. He said it was like two men facing each other, each armed with, say, a dagger; by gradually increasing their arms, they reach the point where each has a machine gun. What has changed? The level of armament, but the correlation has not changed. Now, he said, surely the American Government does not think that, say, the neutron bomb will in itself sharply alter the balance of power. It obviously will not, because then the Russians will be forced to develop a neutron bomb, again there will be a balance, again the same correlation. I think that, of course, very many Americans are gradually coming to understand this simple truth.

State of Union Message

[Ovsyannikov] Boris Georgiyevich, we have been talking about the main problem of our times, disarmament and about what ways of solving that problem there are in the United States; and in this context I would like to mention that a couple of days ago, it happened to be the anniversary of the American President's inauguration, and a few of the results of Carter's presidency were summed up.

[Strelnikov] That is correct. And in general, it should be said that January in America is the traditional month for what are called the President's messages to Congress. So what was in the message to congressmen this January? To put it briefly, not much good news. A large part of President Carter's message was devoted to domestic problems, especially to the economy. This is how the President started that part of his report. I quote: We cannot rest on our laurels, the President said, when almost 6 1/2 million people who have actively sought work cannot find any; when 3.25 million people are working part-time because they cannot find full-time employment; and when 1 million people have stopped looking for work because all of them have lost hope of finding any. We cannot rest on our laurels when a large part of our industrial equipment stands idle, as is the case today.

Well, the President went on in the same spirit. He admitted that unemployment among minorities is more than twice that among whites, and that unemployment among minority young people--that is, blacks, Puerto Ricans, Mexicans, Indians and so on--has reached truly tragic dimensions. That is what he said: truly tragic dimensions. Women have fewer opportunities of finding a satisfactory job than men, while older Americans often find that access to the job market is simply closed to them. Those are the President's words. Unbridled inflation, the President said, is slowing down economic growth, and it strikes hardest at the needy, the old, and in general at those living on their own earnings. And here is another very meaningful admission, and again I quote: The administration, the President said, cannot end poverty, cannot secure economic prosperity, reduce the inflation rate, save our cities, end illiteracy or supply the country with energy. End quote. So the administration cannot, but who can?

In overcoming these difficulties, the President said, the initiative must rest with private capital. In other words, everything is handed over to private capital.

[Ovsyannikov] In his message, the President also proposed tax reforms: How have Americans taken that part of the American President's message?

[Strelnikov] Well, typical of the comment I have seen in American newspapers is the following: Nothing new and no surprises. And here is another very interesting comment: President Carter took the part of a general trying to advance from the exposed positions of political promises to the secure positions of his rhetoric. There you see, even his campaign promises are brought into it. Well, finally, the New York TIMES, summing up the results of all this, writes: In his message on the state of the nation, Carter proposed few initiatives. The rhetoric of his address, although it drew applause, was that of a man who prefers prose to romantic fiction.

[Ovsyannikov] On the whole, the chief result is that the problems of America remain unsolved; that is all there is to say.

[Strelnikov] Very true. And on this point, a Senate committee member, Roth, told reporters: The tax cut which the President has promised will not even be enough to compensate for the new taxes already planned. It is a thief's approach, the congressman said; it is promising cuts with one hand and grabbing the taxpayer's wallet with the other for new taxes.

[Ovsyannikov] So much for the economic part of the message. And now, if you please, for the foreign policy sector.

[Strelnikov] Here Carter again touched upon Soviet-U.S. relations. The United States, he said, is conducting the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks with the Soviet Union with the firm intent of reducing tensions in relations between the two states. Those negotiations, in the President's view, are a difficult and protracted process.

Unfortunately, here it is necessary again to point out the contradiction between Washington's words and deeds. This contradiction is immediately striking when we become familiar with the draft federal budget which Carter proposed the other day. Military allocations take the main place in the budget: Overall military spending is increasing by a gigantic sum, by almost \$12 billion--it is now approximately \$117 billion and is being increased to approximately \$128.5 billion. And even more allocations are ahead. This shows that the U.S. Government not only does not intend to halt the process of increasing arms, but is even apparently stepping up this trend.

Japan's Problems

[Ovsyannikov] Now let us also consider an analysis of the tasks connected with the trade and economic war between the United States and Japan and also an analysis of certain aspects of Japan's domestic situation. The Diet session was resumed the other day in Tokyo. As at the American Congress, which we mentioned at the beginning of the broadcast, the session of the Diet in Tokyo is also summing up the results of the Fukuda government's activities. As our listeners will probably recall, President Carter and Prime Minister Fukuda assumed their high posts almost at the same time. In the opinion of Japanese political observers, the past year was extremely difficult for Takeo Fukuda and for the entire ruling Liberal Democratic Party. Failures in elections, very acute economic problems, upsets in relations with a number of other countries--all this has contributed to the weakness of the Fukuda government.

As far as the future is concerned, Prime Minister Fukuda is due to go through his most severe test in his struggle to solve Japan's problems, which he himself calls the most difficult in the entire postwar period. In the foreign policy sphere the prime minister has to make a decision regarding current problems regarding the crisis in Japan's trade and economic relations with the United States. Concerning the domestic situation, the Fukuda government, with a dangerously small majority of only 256 seats out of 511 in the lower house, will probably run into difficulties as it attempts to steer the Diet along the course it prefers. In the present Diet session the government and the Liberal Democratic Party are making a maximum effort to achieve the rapid adoption of a second additional budget. Regarding trade relations with the United States, the Fukuda government, as our listeners know, has made certain concessions, liberalizing the sale of U.S. goods on the Japanese market. The papers have been saying that Japan has again shown the white flag in the trade and economic war with its Pacific Ocean partner.

But can it be said that the war has ended and that Japan has made substantial concessions? I think that all of this is more of a camouflage to fool the public. The contradictions between two of the strongest countries of the capitalist world are too sharp and too profound to be removed by statements about aspirations to create a harmonious triangle--the United States, West Germany and Japan--which was mentioned by the well-known Zbigniew Brzezinski. The law of the intensification of contradictions among capitalist countries proves to be stronger than the good intentions of the members of the Trilateral Commission. Therefore, I think the Tokyo weekly SHUKAN ASAHI was quite right when it said recently: It has been possible to avoid a new Pearl Harbor in Japanese-American relations, but the calm is deceptive--the causes of the conflict have not been eliminated and it might flare up again at any moment.

Middle East Deadlock

In our broadcast, comrades, we would like also to consider the situation in the Near East. The situation in that part of the world remains tense, as before, and the separate talks between Egypt and Israel are deadlocked.

[Mirskiy] Yes. It has been exactly 2 months since President As-Sadat returned from Jerusalem in triumph, as it seemed to him then. And remember how much the Western press said about what a great and wise step this was, about state wisdom? They said that As-Sadat might almost be proposed as a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize. The Egyptian press was literally beside itself, saying: This is it: Peace, understand, is just a step away; now there is a peace treaty, everything, all the problems are solved; for 30 years, more or less, everything has been deadlocked, but at last one trip opens up everything. Of course these were illusions. And perhaps worse, but at any rate now you are right, there is indeed a deadlock, and the Western press is already saying that perhaps As-Sadat's whole mission has proved to be futile.

The reasons for this are, on the whole, understandable, and the first of them is that As-Sadat, of course, has weakened himself. He is left without allies, and has argued with the whole Arab world, which naturally could not forgive him for such a challenge. But also, one must say that he has not managed to draw Jordan into this process. The point, as we see it, is that if he had managed to draw in King Husayn he would have gotten out of the situation to some extent: Nobody would then have been able to accuse him of taking a separate path. His main task was to show that he was acting on behalf of the whole Arab people, on behalf of the Arab nation, that he was trying to get back all the lost territory and was not just concerned with himself and Egypt in the Sinai Peninsula.

Why do we mention particularly the king of Jordan? The point is that the West Bank of the River Jordan was part of Jordan and therefore it was originally considered that if Israel returned that territory it should do so to the Jordanian king. However, in 1974 all the Arab states agreed, and King Husayn confirmed, that the legal owners of the West Bank are the Palestinians themselves and that their representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization, should be the lawful authority on this territory after the Israeli occupiers have left it. King Husayn recognized this, but now As-Sadat and certain other circles are attempting to activate Jordan again and to enlist it. Why? In order to leave out the PLO, to take back, as it were, the most solemn pledge which was made by the Arab states in 1974, and to try to incline the Jordanian Government toward a bilateral deal with Israel at the expense of the PLO.

[Ovsyannikov] And not only Egypt but also the United States tried to win Husayn over.

[Mirskiy] Yes. Carter met Husayn in Teheran, and this would have been a way out of the situation for them, but Husayn indeed showed himself here to be a man who really understood the situation. He said that he could see no basis for joining in this so-called peace process which As-Sadat had begun. He could not see Israel taking any steps to meet them. It was not that Husayn blamed As-Sadat, but the point was that he really could not see any real opportunity.

As the Arabs say, there is no horse and no camel, so what will we ride? Indeed, on what can they ride to Jerusalem when Husayn will not join in these, so to speak, peace talks, and all that Begin has proposed is a plan envisaging the virtual preservation and even the perpetuation of the Israeli occupation on the West Bank of the Jordan.

In some sense even certain Western observers write that adoption of the Begin plan would mean not an improvement but even a worsening of the Palestinians' position. These are now known as administered territories: They are not formally a part of Israel. Then this would be an autonomous territory, but within the framework of what state? The Israeli state, in other words the Israeli occupation, would be maintained. And now indeed the question arises: What next? You know, he should show some sort of dynamic action: He cannot mark time. He made a dramatic gesture, recalling his delegation, led by the minister of foreign affairs, from Israel. And some assessed this as an attempt to put pressure on Israel. However, if this was so then the results of this pressure are on the whole not evident.

[Ovsyannikov] It seems that in order to calm public opinion it has now been announced that the talks in Cairo should, they allege, resume.

[Mirskiy] Yes, the talks should resume at defense minister level, but it is difficult to say what this will lead to. On the whole there is little chance that anything real will be achieved because the main questions are political. If Israel is not even prepared to consider the question of winding up its settlements on the Sinai Peninsula, then why go any further? This, incidentally, Western observers note, is another generally unexpected blow to As-Sadat by Begin. As a last resort, of course, As-Sadat does have an alternative, a separate peace treaty, which while being the easiest goal to reach also poses a problem--namely, the Jewish settlements in the Sinai Peninsula. Here I wish to draw a distinction between two concepts. The separate path which As-Sadat is following is one thing--this separate settlement, in circumvention of the Palestinians, the other Arab countries and the Geneva conference and with an attempt to exclude the Soviet Union from the settlement process, that is a separate path. But that does not mean that his ideal and that of the Americans is a separate peace treaty. Why not?

Because that would mean such an obvious and shameless betrayal of the Palestinians in the eyes of the entire world that not even the conservative Arab regimes--not even Saudi Arabia, for instance--could support it, because...

[Ovsyannikov] Yes, and here I would like to ask you a question, Georgiy Ilich. Just recently Yasir 'Arafat went to Saudi Arabia, and statements were made there which indicate that Saudi Arabia does not support As-Sadat's policy of circumventing the Palestinians.

[Mirskiy] Yes, and I think this is why: First, in 1973 Saudi Arabia gained some degree of prestige through the fact that it took an active part, if you remember, in the oil action that the Arabs then put into effect--the embargo and the raising of oil prices and so forth. The Saudis gained a very great deal of prestige. In general it is a very rich country and in that respect it is very influential in the Arab world, but in addition there is a point that one should be sure to bear in mind: the Saudi king--the king of the country in whose territory Mecca and Medina, the two most holy Islamic cities are located--to a certain extent regards himself as being responsible for the fate of the Moslems. Looking from this religious viewpoint I recall how the present king's predecessor, the late King Faysal, used to say that he dreamed of the day when he would be able to go to Jerusalem and pray at the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which is altogether the holiest mosque in the Islamic world, just as Jerusalem is, after Mecca and Medina, the third holiest city. Even in this sense to allow Jerusalem, that is the old city--the Arab section--to remain in Israel's hands, and to allow the Palestinians are also connected in earnest with Saudi Arabia, which gives them aid and so forth--to allow that would mean that Saudi Arabia would lose its high prestige in the Arab world. [sentence as heard] For this reason it would not be able to support As-Sadat, and in that event he would find himself completely isolated, without Saudi money or any moral support.

[Ovsyannikov] Indeed, the Americans are very sensitive to the Saudi Arabian standpoint.

[Mirskiy] Of course they are. Even if one imagines that there were a separatist Egyptian-Israeli treaty and Egypt were to remain as an American political base in the Arab world, this would still not be much. It would mean the downfall of American policy in other parts of the Near East. And the new standpoint of Saudi Arabia, which would then be adopted, as we have been saying, is of course far more important for the United States than Egypt, is it not?

[Strelnikov] Incidentally, I think that Tel Aviv has been making its calculations very subtly, when one considers one very important circumstance connected with the domestic political situation in the United States. The point is that this year the so-called mid-term elections will be held, when a third of the Senate, all of the House of Representatives, a number of governors and so forth are up for reelection. The election campaign has already begun, and it is also known how truly powerful the pro-Israeli lobby is. In an election year each candidate for office, from presidential candidates to mayoral candidates, endeavor in one way or another to express loyalty to Israel. And of course, neither the American Congress nor the White House will undertake anything which would run counter to the interests of Tel Aviv. There is no reason to think that As-Sadat can receive this year any of the moral or material aid on which he is counting.

[Ovsyannikov] A few days ago Robert McNamara, who heads the well-known bank, arrived in Cairo, and there was discussion of U.S. aid to Egypt. How real is this aid? And would it be possible in this connection to mention the aid that the United States is granting to Israel?

[Mirskiy] Yes. I want to say that Boris Georgiyevich has touched upon a very important question. Indeed, regarding As-Sadat's calculations, probably one of the most important was the calculation that the United States has an interest in his regime. Each of As-Sadat's actions is calculated to increase his regime's appeal, so to speak, for the Western world and America in particular. For this reason America has no interest in letting it collapse and will do everything necessary to pressure Israel and make it shift its ground. This has been the calculation. Boris Georgiyevich was quite right in saying that given the approaching elections there is, indeed, no need to think of America applying real pressure. That is one thing. Second, you were speaking about aid, and indeed the Americans have given aid to As-Sadat's regime, although altogether it cannot compare with what they have given Israel.

The latter is now provided for, to all intents and purposes, for several years, and many Western journalists are putting the issue this way: Fine, even if Carter wanted to put pressure on Israel in order to assist As-Sadat, what indeed could he do in practice? Could he halt economic aid? That would be impossible. One only has to think of the reaction of the Israeli lobby in Washington. Could he halt military aid? Even if one were to imagine the Americans loudly declaring that they would halt any kind of military aid to Israel, the fact is that they have already given Israel weapons to last them for several years. You see, Israel might even undertake to do without this for some time. This moreover is one of the contradictions of the policy of American imperialism in the Near East--a contradiction which in this case harms its basic interests, one could even say. Look, on the one hand it is of course interested in Israel, which is its base and its springboard, and on the other hand in the interests of preserving its relations with the Arab world and primarily the oil-producing countries: It is in this respect, of course, interested in Israel giving up something to the Arabs. This is how it was in Kissinger's time. He would arrive in Israel, bang his fist there and demand their departure from some positions. Then he would go off...

[Ovsyannikov] Shuttle diplomacy, which Vance is starting to revive.

[Mirskiy] Yes, shuttle diplomacy. He would go off and in literally a few months' time the U.S. Congress would pay out several hundred million dollars more for Israeli. But all the results of this so-called pressure by Kissinger are coming to nothing, because everyone in Israel is very aware that in no event will America leave them to the mercy of fate, and that it will provide them with large funds. It means that no one believes seriously in this pressure. Israel now feels that being behind the wall of the United States is like being behind a rock wall, and for this reason it does not attempt to make progress to propose something more acceptable for the Arabs than this Begin plan. Moreover I would like to say that even if Israel were to shift its position and do what As-Sadat wants, and as I have said, As-Sadat would also like to involve King Husayn in this somehow, and reach some kind of other temporary compromise, the establishment of a sort of mini-Palestine--some strange kind of state body which would not be a genuinely independent Palestinian state but in some way a vassal either of Israel or of Jordan...
[sentence as heard]

[Ovsyannikov] And at that, without the participation of the Palestine...

[Mirski.] That is indeed the point: Without the participation of the PLO. And I want to say that even if Israel should concede that alternative, and some Western observers do not rule out the possibility that it could in extreme circumstances concede it, if it were a question of either the As-Sadat regime collapsing with all the consequences of that for the West and for America or of making some concession, then Israel might make, say, the appearance of a concession on condition that the West Bank is demilitarized and some kind of incomprehensible state body set up. But then there is still the PLO. Who could think that the PLO would reconcile itself to the implementation of such a capitulationist version of a settlement of the Palestine problem behind its back? Who could imagine that the PLO, its fighters, the fedayeen, brought up from childhood in the spirit of fighting to free their homeland, would sit quietly back and watch something being done that can only be called a betrayal of the Palestinian cause? Of course not, and what I want to say is that no matter how you turn it, it ends up circumventing that legitimate international mechanism which was set up precisely to solve this entire complex of problems--the Geneva conference--and circumventing the PLO as the only legitimate organization which represents the rights and interests of the Palestinians....

[Ovsyannikov] And in circumvention of the opinion of the other progressive peoples....

[Mirskiy] ...And in circumvention of the other progressive Arab countries: Syria, which cannot be left out of the reckoning either--it is right next door and has also lost part of its territory, the Golan Heights, and is vitally interested in everything--Syrian forces are in Lebanon next to the Israeli forces--that is the front, it must be said: You understand, the Palestinians and the progressive forces are still fighting there; it is another powder keg--in circumvention of all that and, finally, in an attempt to exclude the Soviet Union from the Near East settlement process. Of course, nothing will come of all this. And you understand, there is no alternative to a comprehensive settlement, as we always say, of the entire Arab-Israeli conflict, including the question of permanent borders, the question of international guarantees, of setting up a Palestinian state--which must happen, it is the restoration of historic justice. Along the path of some kind of separate steps or behind-the-scenes activities, deals behind other peoples' backs; this is, of course, no alternative. And in this sense, I think that As-Sadat's trip, the fiasco of his entire mission, is now being revealed--a fiasco which the Western press sometimes tries to describe thus: Well, he did try, but it did not come off; well he wanted to improve things but it did not work.

[Ovsyannikov] And yet some people have pointed out that all As-Sadat's plans have melted away like a mirage in the Sinai desert.

[Mirskiy] Yes, but however that may be, I say again that all these versions are no alternative for a genuine and true comprehensive settlement which can alone, sooner or later, solve the issue in this indeed most dangerous and explosive region of the world.

[Ovsyannikov] And on that, comrades, we end our discussion for today at the round table. Thank you for listening.

VANCE, GOLDBERG STATEMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS COMPARED

LD290200Y Moscow in English to North America 2230 GMT 28 Jan 78 LD

[Text] We continue with "Moscow Viewpoint," our Saturday commentary by Valentin Zorin.

One of the most popular expressions today is human rights. I think the majority of people in all countries will agree that human rights must be respected and protected, but the expression has acquired so many interpretations it might be well to stop and consider what it really does rather than simply claim that some countries observe human rights and others violate them.

In a recent speech at the University of Georgia the secretary of State, Cyrus Vance, called attention to three aspects of human rights; first, the right to be free of government violation of human dignity. Mr Vance explained that he meant torture, brutal or degrading treatment or punishment and arbitrary arrest or imprisonment. Second, the right to satisfy such vital needs as food, housing, medical service and education, and third the right to enjoy civil and political freedoms. With a few additions and corrections this definition of human rights seems to me fairly comprehensive, but if we compare it with the way the media and some political leaders of America construe human rights we find that the most important right in Mr Vance's enumeration is ignored. I refer to the right to satisfy such vital needs as food, housing, medical service and education. If we go by Mr Vance's definition the United States is hardly in a position to set itself up as a model and point an accusing finger at other nations as the American delegate, Arthur Goldberg, has done at the Belgrade conference.

Mr Goldberg seems to be ignorant of the state secretary's opinion or he doesn't agree with it. I've examined all his speeches in Belgrade, and they have been many. Mr Goldberg is not reluctant to talk and I find not a single sign that he includes the right to satisfy one's vital needs among the basic human rights. Perhaps he drops it with good reason. Millions of Americans are deprived of the crucial right to work. Medical service too is expensive for many Americans. Housing, too, is beyond the reach of many. When the American media let loose their arrows against the socialist countries they make no mention of the fact that these countries have no unemployment and cannot have it, or the fact that medical service is free, education at all levels is free and retirement pensions are government financed. They don't mention the fact either that housing rent in the socialist countries takes only a small share of a family's income. If we apply Cyrus Vance's definition of human rights to the position of the American delegation at the Belgrade conference, there just is no position.

And now let's take a closer look at the human rights which Mr Vance places first, the right to be free of government violation of human dignity. No one will deny that arbitrary arrest or imprisonment are violation of human rights. The American media and some top officials have accused the Soviet Union of practicing arbitrary arrest and imprisonment. Actually all the Soviet citizens mentioned in the current campaign have been sentenced by a court on the basis of Soviet law. True, a court sentence may arouse doubts, but the American media offer no arguments to prove the sentences were unjust.

They simply question them. If they went deeper into the cases they'd find that the Soviet courts established violations of the law, hence the sentences. How can the American delegation in Belgrade say the same about the sentences American courts have passed in political cases? Some time ago the American press published facts showing that the two American Italians sent to the electric chair in 1927, Sacco and Vanzetti, were the victims of a frameup. There are plenty of examples of miscarriage of justice closer to the present day too. It's now established that there's no legal foundation for the sentence passed on the Rev Ben Chavis and his buddies in North Carolina. The witnesses whose testimony broke the indictment have since admitted they gave false testimony from fear of the state authorities. But the sentenced are still imprisoned. What is this if not a violation of human rights?

The third right Mr Vance spoke of at the University of Georgia was the right to enjoy the civil and political freedoms, including freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom to participate in national government. But can Washington officials say in all sincerity that these rights are guaranteed to Americans? For years the Federal Bureau of Investigation has kept an eye on a great number of Americans, tapping telephone conversations, opening the mails, making up files. These are commonly known facts. It's also a known fact that in the latest presidential elections more than half of the adult Americans who had the right to vote didn't bother to. It might be more useful for the protection of human rights if Washington officials stopped to consider why millions of Americans year after year stay away from the polls. What good does it do to slander the electoral systems in the socialist countries? In the most recent parliamentary elections in the Soviet Union incidentally 98 percent of the adult population with the right to vote went to the polls.

When the state secretary defines human rights in one way and his delegate at the Belgrade conference in another it makes you wonder why the administration didn't agree on a definition before focusing all attention on human rights. And it's certainly advisable before holding up America as an example for other nations to follow to see that human rights are really respected in America.

'VIGOROUS WORLD MOVEMENT' OPPOSING NEUTRON BOMB REPORTED

LD290856Y Moscow TASS in English 0840 GMT 29 Jan 78 LD

["PRAVDA commentator: 'No' to Neutron Bomb"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, January 29, TASS--"The Pentagon's plan to start the production of neutron weapons and deploy them on the territory of European NATO countries is the greatest threat to peace at the present stage of international development," emphasized Vitaliy Korionov, PRAVDA's commentator. He comments on a vigorous movement that has developed in the world in protest against the Pentagon's wild plans.

Of course, the commentator observes, the Pentagon generals know that "the peoples striving for peace firmly reject the neutron bomb. This is why the bomb advocates resort to cynical contrivances, portraying this ominous invention of the Pentagon nearly as an instrument of maintenance of peace."

"The task to put an end to the arms race, to the production of all types of weapons of mass destruction and exclude them from arsenals remains a paramount and most important problem of world politics. It is for the solution of this task that the Soviet Union is calling," the commentator emphasizes.

"Circles which determine the policy of states, of West European countries in the first place, now stand before quite a responsible decision. When taking it they must reckon with the opinion of peoples who say 'No' to the neutron bomb," the PRAVDA commentator summarizes.

U.S., USSR BUDGETS CONTRASTED; U.S. ARMS SPENDING CRITICIZED

LD271112Y Moscow TASS in English 1054 GMT 27 Jan 78 LD

["Two Budgets, Two Priorities"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, January 27, TASS--TASS political analyst Igor Orlov writes:

The draft of the new U.S. budget for the fiscal year of 1979 (beginning on October 1), which President Carter submitted to the Congress the other day, has aroused lively discussion in the United States and abroad. This is perfectly understandable because budgets are believed to mirror the political course of this or that government, its system of priorities. The latter, in their turn, allow for comparisons and collations. It appears interesting in this connection to compare the budgets of the two biggest states, namely the United States and the Soviet Union, since the facts involved in this comparison will reflect better than any propaganda verbalism the actual, practically pursued policy.

It is apparently necessary, first and foremost, to draw attention to the militarist coloration of the new American budget. Pride of place in it belongs to military allocations. The budget's official military section is increased by nearly 12,000 million dollars and now amounts to 128,000 million dollars.

But this sum, too, does not reflect fully all the military spending, because additional and rather substantial funds for research of a military nature are allocated through other ministries and departments. The Department of Energy alone will get 2,800 million dollars for this purpose. Funds for the development of neutron weapons, triggering off a new round of the arms race, are included in the innocently sounding item of "public works". Orientation on the further development of new strategic arms systems is a sinister feature of the draft budget, which runs counter to the high-flown declarations of official Washington concerning its desire to stop the arms race. It is therefore not surprising that the needs of education, public health and other social programmes are relegated to the background in the new budget, yielding place to military priorities. Spendings on these purposes are at best increased nominally or insignificantly, and taking into account the inflation, are even smaller in some domains than before. Even despite this, the new United States budget is drawn up with a deficit of 60,000 million dollars.

It is noteworthy, by the way, that the budget of the Soviet Union traditionally provides for higher revenues than spendings. But this is not the only point. The Soviet Union, as distinct from the United States and other NATO countries, is not increasing its military budget, is not cutting down but rather increasing allocations to raise the living standards of the people.

This year the defence expenditures, envisaged by the Soviet budget, remain at the same level as last year, amounting to 17,200 million roubles. Inasmuch as the total volume of the state budget has grown, the share of the military spendings dropped this year to a record low of seven percent. On the other hand, allocations for social and cultural measures have again been raised substantially and now equal to 87,400 million roubles, topping by fifty per cent those of 1970. Such are the priorities of the Soviet budget. They correspond to the Soviet Constitution, which proclaims that the supreme goal of social production under socialism is to satisfy most fully the growing material and spiritual requirements of the people.

Comparison of actual data from the budgets of the two biggest states sheds light on the subversive purpose of the adulterated "reports" and "surveys" which are released from time to time by the Central Intelligence Agency in order to mislead public opinion, intimidate it by the so-called "Soviet menace," alleged "superiority of Soviet capital investments into strategic armaments," etc. Such vile fabrications have been more than once in the past turned down due to their crudity even by different agencies in Washington itself. Facts are stubborn things. They unmask those who make futile attempts to shift to others the blame for the arms race actually perpetrated by the United States and NATO, which have embarked upon the course of sharply building up their military potential. An analysis of the U.S. draft budget is extra proof of this.

SOME U.S. POLITICIANS SAID TO OPPOSE M-X MISSILE

LD271325Y Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 25 Jan 78 p 3 LD

[A. Mozgovoy article: "The Pentagon's Senseless 'alternatives'"]

[Text] Some 1,054 Minuteman and Titan ICBMs, 41 nuclear submarines carrying 656 Poseidon and Polaris strategic missiles, and more than 400 heavy bombers carrying nuclear bombs and air-to-ground missiles. That is how the U.S. strategic arsenal stands at present. Moreover, many thousands of tactical nuclear warheads are deployed in Western Europe and in Asia close to the borders of the socialist states.

And it emerges that all this is not enough. In any case that is what high-ranking officials of the U.S. Defense Department believe. They are asserting that by the early eighties the Soviet Union will have achieved "strategic superiority" and that, as before, the shadow of the "Soviet threat" is hanging over the "defenseless" United States.

In itself this is not a new move. Suffice it to recall that in the early fifties wailing was heard from the Pentagon about a "catastrophic bomber deficiency," and in 1957 the myth of the "catastrophic U.S. lag in the ballistic missile sphere" was born. And each time the theatrical wringing of hands and floods of tears of desperation led to the desired results: the U.S. military department received billions of dollars for adding new turns to the arms race spiral.

And now the latest "dramatic" situation has been dreamed up--U.S. ground-based missiles have allegedly become "vulnerable" (none of the Pentagon officials explains intelligibly why they have suddenly become "vulnerable"). There has been an urgent demand that the entire U.S. strategic "concept" be revised. And a group of Pentagon specialists has already begun compiling the relevant recommendations which are to be submitted for White House examination by this summer.

According to the U.S. press, the main conclusion in the recommendations will amount to the fact that it will be necessary to replace the Minuteman missiles with a more powerful and more mobile system. Such a system is already virtually in existence. This is the M-X missile, which has been fostered in the design bureaus of the Boeing company and other military corporations. In the current fiscal year \$140 million have been appropriated for the M-X program. In February the Ralph M. Parsons firm will begin building an experimental tunnel for testing M-X mobile platforms at Luke Air Force Base in the State of Arizona.

Talks on the limitation of strategic offensive arms are currently being conducted in Geneva between representatives of the USSR and United States. As Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, recently declared, there are good possibilities for carrying these talks through to a successful conclusion.

Many sober-minded U.S. politicians also hope that the talks will succeed and they reject the Pentagon's fabrications about Soviet strategic "superiority." "If a SALT agreement is as effective as I imagine, the vulnerability of the Minuteman missiles will not increase," says Congressman B. Carr, who attended the Geneva talks as an observer.

However, the conclusion of an agreement does not accord with the interests of the Pentagon, U.S. reactionary political circles and the military-industrial corporations. "Their alternative," writes the Washington POST, "is the mobile M-X missile."

To the M-X should be added the Trident missile-carrying submarines, cruise missiles and neutron bombs. Such senseless "alternatives" have nothing in common with security and merely whip up the atmosphere of mistrust and erect obstacles in the way of progress toward lasting peace.

DRAFT BUDGET INDICATES 'CONCESSION TO MILITARISTS'

LD271323Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Jan 78 p 5 LD

[Georgiy Ratiani article: "Making Concessions to the 'Hawks'"]

[Text] January in Washington is the month when the President addresses Congress on the main problems of government policy and introduces the draft federal budget for the following year, which comes into force on 1 October of the current year. The general structure of the present budget bears witness to the difficulties which the American economy will face in the future. The expenditure section exceeds income by \$60 billion. At the same time the tax from corporations receiving the lion's share of income in the country is only about one-fourth of the direct and indirect taxes on the population.

The main place in the budget is occupied by military appropriations. Total military expenditure is going up by a gigantic sum--almost \$12 billion (from 116.7 to 128.4 billion). The U.S. press is calling the Pentagon's budget a "record." This alone indicates that the U.S. Government not only does not intend to halt the process of arms accumulation but on the contrary is intensifying this tendency.

In his "State of the Union" message to Congress U.S. President J. Carter outlines a broad program for the development of new strategic arms systems, for which there appropriations are envisaged: "the construction of cruise missiles"; "improving the B-52 bomber"; elaborating new "M-X system" mobile strategic missiles; "continuing to strengthen the Superpowerful Trident nuclear submarine system." The Pentagon's budget provides for appropriations for scientific research work and experimental and design work in the sphere of new strategic arms systems.

Here, perhaps, lies the main feature of the draft budget--its orientation toward the development of sophisticated strategic arms systems. The second feature is, as the President states in his message, "raising the combat readiness of NATO forces." The strengthening of American Armed Forces in Europe and the deployment in West European NATO countries of such new and extremely dangerous types of arms as the neutron bomb are envisaged. Here it is implied that other NATO member countries will follow the U.S. example, intensifying the arms race and thereby complicating the process of detente in Europe.

The draft budget, which provides for a growth in military expenditures, does not confirm the Washington administration's statements on the desire to end the arms race. Rather it indicates that in the American "corridors of power" they are ready to make yet another concession to militarist circles.

FURTHER MATERIAL ON VISITING SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION

Ponomarev News Conference

LD271350V Moscow TASS in English 1330 GMT 27 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Washington, January 27, TASS--U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has received the visiting delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet led by Boris Ponomarev, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The Soviet ambassador to the USA, Anatoliy Dobrynin, was present at the meeting.

The U.S. secretary of state gave a luncheon in honour of the Soviet delegation. Cyrus Vance and Boris Ponomarev exchanged toasts during the luncheon.

Cyrus Vance said in an interview with a TASS correspondent that he considers the visit by the Soviet delegation a very useful one for broadening mutual understanding between the Soviet Union and the United States. Mutual visits by parliamentary delegations, he said, help the two sides understand each other better and deeper and lead to fuller understanding between the governments and peoples of the two countries.

Washington, January 27 TASS--At a press conference held after an exchange of opinions between the delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet and representatives of the two chambers of the U.S. Congress, Boris Ponomarev summed up the results of discussions on a wide range of international problems and Soviet-American relations.

The discussions in Congress were business-like, Boris Ponomarev said, and they showed the willingness of the Soviet and the American sides to find mutually acceptable general positions in the matter of solution of topical problems of Soviet-American relations and the international situation in general.

The Soviet parliamentarians made it clear that the Soviet Union's policy with regard to Soviet-American relations remains unchanged. It is aimed at improving our relations on the basis of equality, mutual benefit and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. This was stressed more than once with all responsibility by Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The central issue in Soviet-American relations today is that of practical steps toward arms limitation and then arms reduction. The conclusion of a new agreement on the limitation of strategic offensive arms can and must become such a practical step.

One finds it surprising that in the USA there exist doubts and even distrust of the new agreement although it is not yet in existence, said the leader of the Soviet delegation.

In our talks and discussions in Congress we stated directly that there are no grounds for such distrust. Leonid Brezhnev said repeatedly that "the Soviet Union takes effective care of its defence, but it does not seek and will not seek military supremacy over the other side." We do not wish to jeopardize the national security of the USA or to upset the approximate balance of force that now exists between the USSR and the USA. But we demand in return that no one else should try to upset this balance in his favour.

The leader of the Soviet delegation expressed the hope that members of the U.S. Congress would approach realistically, without any bias, the discussion of the question of this agreement.

The Soviet delegation gave special attention to the discussion of the question of the American side's intention to begin the manufacture of the neutron bomb, a new type of nuclear weapon of mass destruction of people, and to deploy such weapons in Western Europe.

The Soviet Union suggests reaching agreement on the mutual refusal to manufacture neutron weapons.

The question of implementation of the final act of the European Conference on Security and Cooperation was also discussed. The Soviet delegation stressed that implementation of the Helsinki accords has made an important contribution to improving the situation in Europe and throughout the world.

The main thing in Europe now is to supplement the relaxation of political tension with an easing of military tension.

In the course of the discussion of the Middle East situation, the Soviet delegation stressed that the joint Soviet-American statement on the Middle East of October 1, 1977 outlined a common approach of the USSR and the USA as co-chairmen of the Geneva peace conference to the Middle East settlement.

But the implementation of this important accord is complicated as a result of such actions as the separate talks between Egyptian and Israeli leaders. This creates a deep split in the Arab world and undermines the convocation of the Geneva peace conference even before it gets started.

As far as the situation in the area of the Horn of Africa is concerned, the Soviet Union has done everything in its power in order to prevent the outbreak of the Somali-Ethiopian conflict. It consistently pursues the line towards ending this fratricidal war, calls upon the Somali leaders to withdraw their troops from Ethiopia and calls upon both states to seek a political settlement of the problem at the negotiating table.

In conclusion, the head of the Soviet delegation expressed hope that the discussions held in Congress will help towards widening mutual understanding between the supreme legislative bodies of the USSR and the USA.

From the American side, the evaluation of the results of the exchange of views in Congress was made by Deputy Leader of the Democratic Majority in the House of Representatives J. Brademas and Deputy Leader of the Democratic Majority in Senate A. Cranston. Congressman J. Brademas noted the useful and sincere character of the discussions on a wide range of issues of mutual interest for the peoples of the Soviet Union and the United States.

Senator A. Cranston said that the meeting of representatives of such two great powers as the USSR and the USA and the sincere discussion by them of most important international issues contribute to improving mutual understanding for strengthening peace and security and curbing the arms race threatening calamities to the whole mankind. The overcoming of differences in this way and in the first place in the quest for constructive decisions is an important step in relations not only between the peoples of the two countries, but also meets the interests of the peoples of the whole world.

Participants in the press conference answered questions of correspondents.

On the same day, USSR Ambassador to the USA Anatoliy Dobrynin held a reception in honour of the delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The reception was attended by leading members of both chambers of the U.S. Congress, among them Senators A. Cranston, E. Kennedy, F. Church, A. Stevenson and C. Percy, Congressmen C. Zablocki, C.M. Price and others.

In the evening, the delegation left for a tour of the country.

Visit to Space Center

LD280648Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0520 GMT 28 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Houston--Continuing on their tour of the United States of America, the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by Boris Ponomarev, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities, candidate member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, arrived in Houston, where they visited the Johnson space flight control center.

Greeting the Soviet guests, the director of the center, Kraft, stressed the great scientific and practical significance of Soviet-American cooperation in the study of space.

American astronaut E. Gibson provided the delegation with explanations. We are glad to welcome you here precisely at the moment when Soviet cosmonauts are carrying out their magnificent flight aboard the space station Salyut-6, he said.

He stressed the high technical and scientific features of the Soviet space station, wished the Soviet cosmonauts a successful completion of their flight and expressed the hope that cooperation between American astronauts and Soviet cosmonauts would develop.

Arrival in Los Angeles

LD290738Y Moscow TASS in English 0657 GMT 29 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Los Angeles, January 29, TASS--The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation who are touring the country at the invitation of U.S. Congress arrived in Los Angeles, the largest centre of the western coast.

The delegation made a stopover in Little Rock, Arkansas. The deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet familiarized themselves with the organisation of work at one of the largest livestock and grain farms of the state.

Remarks by Senators, G. Kennan

LD271527Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Jan 78 p 4 LD

[Correspondents G. Vasilyev and T. Koleshichenko report: "Useful Discussions"]

[Text] Washington, 25 January--The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation led by B. N. Ponomarev, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, is continuing its visit to the United States.

During the delegation's meetings with members of the U.S. Senate, the representatives of the two countries' supreme elective organs discussed such important questions as strategic arms limitation and other problems of a military and political nature and also the implementation of the Helsinki accords. Yesterday the participants in the discussions in the Senate discussed regional problems of interest to both countries. The exchange of opinions is taking place in a businesslike atmosphere.

We spoke with a number of American figures taking part in the meetings with the Soviet parliamentarians. Here is their opinion on the importance of Soviet-American relations and on the progress of the meetings.

Senator R. Stafford (Vermont): Meetings between U.S. and USSR parliamentarians are becoming regular, and this can only be beneficial. I took part in the discussions with your delegation for 2 days. We discussed such problems as SALT, the mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe, the situation in the Near East and others. We have many differences of opinion and position but there are also important spheres of mutual interest. The clearer we know each other's viewpoint the better.

Senator F. Church (Idaho): We work together quite well. The debates were sometimes extremely keen, but discussions help us to determine more exactly not only our differences but also spheres of common interests. I consider the necessity of stopping the nuclear arms race and of then beginning to reduce nuclear arms to be one of these important fields. [paragraph continues]

The news from Geneva is encouraging. I hope that in the next few months an agreement will be reached on the limitation of strategic offensive arms at the Soviet-American talks. This will be a good example for all countries, an example of progress on the path of reducing nuclear arsenals and then of totally wiping them from the face of the earth.

And here is the opinion of G. Kennan, historian and former U.S. ambassador to the USSR. He said: Recently the U.S. Congress has begun to play an increasingly important role in foreign policy matters. Therefore it will be very useful for our senators and congressmen to know more precisely the views of USSR Supreme Soviet deputies on questions of bilateral relations and important international problems. I think that this also applies to your parliamentarians. Soviet-American relations are at a very important stage. Objective prerequisites exist for the gradual improvement of these relations. But we will only manage to achieve this if those involved in formulating policy shake off their false concepts and dogmas inherited from the past. The policy of improving Soviet-American relations meets the interests of the American people, no less than the Soviet people.

Church, Brademas Remarks

LD271531Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Jan 78 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Correspondent M. Sturua dispatch: "Frank and Constructive Talks"]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by B.N. Ponomarev, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet of Nationalities Foreign Affairs Commission, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, which is in Washington, is continuing its talks in the U.S. Congress. At meetings with U.S. senators there has been an exchange of opinions on a wide range of international problems, above all on questions of Soviet-U.S. relations. The situation in the Near East and Africa and problems connected with the Third World and several others have also been discussed.

The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation's stay in the United States and its talks with the U.S. parliamentarians are giving rise to great interest in Congress and are regarded as a positive factor. This is also borne out by several interviews given by members of Congress.

Senator Frank Church--when contacts are established between Soviet people and Americans that is in itself a good thing. When these contacts extend to parliamentarians, this is a big step forward in the right direction. After all, the parliamentarians' competence includes very important issues like those of war and peace. Meetings like the present one promote the birth of trust and mutual understanding. They strengthen the conviction that there will be improved chances of ratifying treaties which may be concluded in the future between the Soviet Union and the United States.

J. Brademas, deputy leader of the House Democratic majority--You could say I am a veteran of exchanges at parliamentary level between our countries, for I visited the Soviet Union in 1975 as a member of the U.S. Congress delegation. To this day I remember the Soviet people's hospitality. I am a resolute supporter of such exchanges. Our talks with the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation, which includes eminent parliamentarians, are very important and significant. They touch on a wide range of paramount international issues which are being discussed in an atmosphere of frankness and constructiveness.

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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES

The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation visited the air and space museum. Frederick Durant, the museum's deputy director, stressed that Soviet-U.S. cooperation has produced impressive results in space research.

The course toward the further development of this cooperation, based on a jointly created, realistic basis, is not a temporary policy based on considerations of expediency but a long-term and principled one for the USSR.

Remarks by Other U.S. Legislators

LD290835Y Moscow TASS in English 0756 GMT 29 Jan 78 LD

[PRAVDA'S correspondents: "A Great Interest Towards the Visit"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, January 29, TASS--The U.S. press is highlighting the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation's stay in the USA and in particular the news conference in Washington, at which the results of an exchange of opinions between the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation and representatives of both houses of U.S. Congress on a wide range of international problems and Soviet-U.S. relations were summed up, wrote Gennadiy Vasilyev and Tomas Kolesnichenko, PRAVDA's correspondents. The correspondents quote pronouncements by Senators Edward Kennedy and Charles Mathias and Congressman Clement Zablocki. Edward Kennedy emphasized, in particular, that the warm reception accorded to the Soviet delegation in U.S. Congress reflects the importance which the Americans attach to an improvement of Soviet-American relations. Edward Kennedy went on to say that his opinion is that a new agreement between the USSR and the USA on limiting offensive strategic arms must be concluded as soon as possible.

Congressman Clement Zablocki told the Soviet journalists that an exchange of parliamentary delegations between the USSR and the USA is already a good tradition. The present visit enabled the two sides to discuss important matters and exchange views. In result the two sides came to know each other better. He said disarmament is the principal matter which is the focus of attention. Senator Charles Mathias pointed out that the continuing dialogue between Soviet and American parliamentarians promotes a better mutual understanding and helps get rid of cold war stereotypes. The two countries' relations continue to develop normally, in the main. He said he believes that agreement on limiting strategic offensive arms will be reached soon. He said this is very important for the whole world.

NORTH CAROLINA'S JUSTICE FOR 'WILMINGTON 10' DECRIED

LD251446Y Moscow TASS in English 1231 GMT 25 Jan 78 LD

[Text] New York, January 25, TASS--TASS correspondent Aleksey Voronin reports:

North Carolina has missed its last chance to restore justice in respect of the "Wilmington ten", said Ben Chavis, the leader of this group of civil rights champions, when commenting on the refusal of Governor James Hunt to set free the militants who were sentenced by a racist court to long prison terms on a framed-up charge.

The North Carolina authorities have jailed Chavis and his comrades for their views and for their tireless struggle against discrimination and suppression of black Americans. The political character of this farce of a trial was admitted by the "witnesses for the prosecution" on whose testimony this "case" rested. They said they had been given money for giving false evidence, but these revelations were ignored by the governor and the judicial organs which refused to reconsider the unjust judgment.

Ben Chavis said at a press conference in prison that he is going to send again a letter to President Carter to ask him to intervene in behalf of the "Wilmington ten". His previous two letters to the President were not answered. He said people have heard the American President talk a lot about human rights. It is sheer hypocrisy, he said, to lecture other states on this matter when human rights are violated at home.

The North Carolina governor denied more than once that racialism was widespread in his state, but by his decision against the "Wilmington ten" he confirmed that this was really so, said Charlene Mitchell, executive secretary of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. She said the governor demonstrated once more the racist and class character of the entire legal system and the machine of government in North Carolina, where black citizens and poor people cannot expect a fair deal from the law, Charlene Mitchell said.

HOLDING OF WASHINGTON ANTIAPARTHEID DEMONSTRATION REPORTED

MD291225Y Moscow TASS in English 1002 GMT 29 Jan 78 ID

[Text] Washington, January 29, TASS--"To do away with apartheid in South Africa!" was the slogan of a mass demonstration which took place here in protest against U.S. cooperation with the racist regime of Vorster. An appeal by the "committee against racism" public organisation on whose initiative the demonstration was held says that apartheid in South Africa keeps on owing to the United States support which is rendered in the interests of big U.S. banks and companies.

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U S S R I N T E R N A T I O N A L A F F A I R S
C H I N A

C 1

TENG HSIAO-PING TO BURMA; 'UNDECLARED WAR' CONTINUES

OW261536Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 0930 GMT 26
Jan 78 OW

[Petrov commentary]

[Excerpts] Teng Hsiao-ping, vice premier of China's State Council, is paying an official visit to Burma, beginning on 26 January.

Teng Hsiao-ping and those who share his views and follow the same path with him are all faithful successors to Mao Tse-tung. They all deliberately distort the truth because they link their own political fortune not with detente and good-neighborliness but with the resumption of the cold war, all-round militarization and fomenting a third world war. Obviously they hope that under the guise of their cries about the Soviet threat and in the great disorder throughout the world, it will be easy for them to carry out their own chauvinist plans.

In the developing countries which have realized the provocative nature of Peking's policies, there are also people who think that the struggle China started against the Soviet Union will affect China's hegemonic (?influence) on these countries. This is no secret, but this kind of calculation is naive. The concrete actions of the Chinese leaders, who pretend to be the most reliable friends of the oppressed people show that the conflict between China and the Soviet Union has no effect whatsoever on the chauvinist policy pursued by Peking with increasing vigor toward the developing countries, China's neighbors in particular.

Take the relations between China and Burma for instance. Today Teng Hsiao-ping arrived in the Burmese capital. On the one hand Peking is paying lip service to strengthening friendship and good-neighborly relations with Burma. On the other hand it (?is continuing) the undeclared war it has been waging against this independent country for many years with the ultimate objective of putting its puppets in power to replace the government in Rangoon. This is no secret to anybody.

From China's Yunnan Province, weapons and ammunition are provided continuously and (?military aid) and advisory groups are sent to the northeastern part of Burma occupied by (?rebel forces) controlled by Peking. The rebel forces are moving in the other direction to (?expand their bases). At the same time, the old smuggling gangs are also operating in the area.

Burmese leaders have tried many times to improve relations between Burma and China and asked Peking to stop interfering with Burma's internal affairs. But all such efforts have failed. In fact, the military actions on the Burmese border have not ceased to this day. But this in no way hinders the Chinese leaders from talking glibly about enhancing friendship with Burma.

(?It is possible) that during his visit to Burma, Teng Hsiao-ping will try to get Burma to join the broad anti-Soviet front engineered by China by offering to end China's interference in Burma's internal affairs. But, many years of experience have shown that the Burmese leaders, who clearly understand Peking's policies and real intentions, have always been on guard against the Chinese leaders' attempt to induce Burma to take part in political activities that are against the interests of Burma and world peace.

Official Visit Begins

LD271336Y Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1000 GMT 27 Jan 78 LD

[Text] The deputy premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, Teng Hsiao-ping, began his official visit to Burma yesterday. After Burma, he will visit Nepal. This is Teng Hsiao-ping's first foreign trip after his rehabilitation in June last year. In connection with the visit, observers in Asia point out that there are a number of unsettled problems between Burma and China, caused by the activities of the Chinese side. In particular, Peking continues to give support to the rebel groupings engaged in subversive activities in Burma's northeast. On their part, Burmese representatives have, on more than one occasion, expressed the wish that disputed problems with China could be settled in the spirit of goodneighborliness. On the eve of his visit, Teng Hsiao-ping made a statement making it to be understood that China was ready to normalize relations with some or other Asian country on the condition that the country in question was ready to accept Maoist concepts.

PRC Broadcasts Instruct Rebels

LD261610Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in English to Asia 1030 GMT 26 Jan 78 LD

[Text] The Maoist leadership of China is provoking the pro-Peking rebels in Burma to antigovernment manifestations. The secret radio station which is situated on Chinese territory, is constantly broadcasting instigating transmissions. In particular, they announce that the Burmese rebels must continue to pursue the teachings of Mao Tse-tung if they want to win a victory over the government in Rangoon. These transmissions also actively propagate the Maoist theory of guerrilla warfare against legal governments and pass on instructions on concrete military operations.

Guided by instructions from Peking the rebels have notably stepped up their terrorist activity. They carry out raids against communities, warehouses, government establishments. Raids of the Peking terrorists have especially been stepped up against the regions west of the Salween River.

INSURGENCY SEEN AS PRC TOOL FOR PRESSURING BURMA

LD281754Y Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1500 GMT 28 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Deputy Chinese prime minister, Teng Hsiao-ping, has begun his official visit to Burma. Here is a commentary by our observer Valeriy Artemov:

It is the first time in the last 14 years that a high-ranking Chinese official is paying a visit to Burma. It is also the first foreign trip by Teng Hsiao-ping since his rehabilitation and return from political obscurity last July. But this is not the only reason why his visit to Rangoon has caught the eye of observers. As the Burmese press admits, relations between China and Burma have not been developing very smoothly and cannot be described as fully normal. This can be explained by a number of unsettled problems created by the Chinese side. There are no other reasons.

It was back in 1960 that China and Burma signed their pact of nonaggression and friendship and the border agreement that laid the basis for goodneighborly cooperation. But since then China has been systematically violating its commitments stipulated in the official documents. This explains why Burma in recent times has been sparing no effort to normalize relations with China.

So it would be logical to assume that Teng Hsiao-ping's visit signifies Peking's readiness to meet the wishes of the Burmese side halfway. Burma naturally would like to hope that these wishes materialize. But at least two (?public statements) made by Teng Hsiao-ping in the last few days put these hopes in doubt.

In one of these statements Teng Hsiao-ping outlined the notorious Maoist theory of three worlds. In another (?speech he) made on 20th January at a reception for the French Prime Minister Raymond Barre, he theorized on the inevitability of the third world war and even its desirability. The question arises whether such statements can be reconciled with the generally accepted views about normal international relations. Of course not; all the more so since Peking makes its readiness to improve relations between neighboring countries dependent on its terms. What are these terms? Using the theory of three worlds, Maoist leaders try to draw other countries into their intrigues disguised by the slogan of fighting against hegemony. The anti-Soviet content of this slogan is made an open secret in Peking. This means that any country wishing to normalize relations with China must worsen its relations with the Soviet Union.

Commenting on the visit by Teng Hsiao-ping to Burma, the newspaper INDIAN EXPRESS notes that China's goal is to persuade as many leaders in the Third World as possible to accept the idea of creating a united front under its auspices, while pushing aside matters of local significance. And it is unlikely that an exception will be made for Burma.

(?Thus) anyone who believed that Peking's anti-Soviet designs may distract it from attempts to spread its influence to the neighboring countries should dismiss these beliefs. Facts show it is just because Peking regards the Soviet Union as the main obstacle standing in the way of its expansionist designs against many Asian nations that it is campaigning against the Soviet Union. (?Such) designs are borne out by fact of the subversive activity carried out by Peking against Burma for many years. All these years Peking has been supporting the [word indistinct] of the insurgents coming out against the Government of Burma.

The impression is that Peking regards the insurgents as a means of pressure to use against Burma when it finds this necessary. This is confirmed in part by the fact that one of the leaders of a group of insurgents operating in Burma was recently invited by the Chinese authorities to an official reception in Peking. So it is clear that prospects for the development of Sino-Burmese relations depend on whether Peking will refrain from the excesses that have been observed in its foreign policy.

CHINA REBUFFED IN ATTEMPT TO ENLIST BURMA IN ASIAN SCHEMES

BK300936Y Moscow in Burmese to Burma 1430 GMT 29 Jan 78 BK

[Sergeyev commentary]

[Text] The vice premier of the People's Republic of China, Teng Hsiao-ping, is currently on an official visit to Burma. The visit has caught the attention of Asian countries and some observers comment that Peking's foreign policy has taken a new turn. What is the purpose of the Chinese leader's tour abroad? If we study the speeches given by Teng Hsiao-ping before his departure from Peking and those given in Burma, we can clearly find an answer to the question.

After the Cultural Revolution, the people of the world strongly criticized China's foreign policy, so the purpose of Teng Hsiao-ping's tour is to build a good image for China's foreign policy in the eyes of the world. As you, the listeners, already know, Peking's policy has caused antagonism between China and Asian countries. It seems that Peking is endeavoring to smooth its relations with these countries.

At a banquet held in Rangoon, Teng Hsiao-ping spoke about the five principles of peaceful coexistence. But everybody knows that only recently Peking leaders excoriated these five principles. How can people trust the Peking leaders, who are now advocating the principles of peaceful coexistence?

The five principles of peaceful coexistence are noninterference in the internal affairs of others, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and nonuse of force in international relations [as heard]. In practice, Peking leaders are ignoring these principles. In fact, for many years China has been blatantly interfering in the internal affairs of its neighbors, including Burma.

Before Teng Hsiao-ping left for Burma, it was noticed that pro-Peking rebels in north-eastern Burma stepped up their activities and carried out subversive acts. The AP news agency reported that while China, on one hand, is supporting the rebels fighting against President Un Ne Win, Teng Hsiao-ping, on the other hand, is saying that the Chinese Government is giving due consideration to good relations with Burma. Highlighting this is the fact that a broadcasting station in China is instigating armed rebels to fight the legal government in Burma.

It is quite evident that China is violating the principles of peaceful coexistence in its relations with its southern neighbors. In fact, in 1967 China launched armed aggression to forcefully occupy Indian territory. No response whatsoever has been received from Chinese leaders to proposals made by India to discuss the border problems. Peking purposely brews trouble to create misunderstanding among South Asian countries. Peking opposes relaxation of tension in Asia and the Chinese leaders are predicting that a world war is inevitable.

In his speech in Rangoon, Teng Hsiao-ping called on Asian countries to cooperate in unity and to oppose imperialism and hegemonism. Peking leaders usually term any anti-Soviet gesture as an antihegemonist act, meaning that China will maintain good relations with those who oppose the Soviet Union. However, there are no signs that the dreams of the Chinese leaders will come true. The Rangoon paper KYEMON has commented that Burma pursues an independent foreign policy and desires to maintain peaceful and friendly relations with all countries in the world.

The very Peking leaders who advocate opposition to imperialist designs have, in fact, long ago given up their anti-imperialist policy. Peking no longer criticizes the United States military preparations in Asia; it no longer objects to the presence of U.S. troops in Asia. Peking does not oppose the establishment of U.S. military bases in the Indian Ocean nor to the presence of the imperialist military bloc in Asia. Asian papers have commented that Peking leaders, taking advantage of the antagonisms between imperialists and Asian national liberation forces, are only working in their own interests. Peking leaders, following this line, have ignored the interests of their southern neighbors.

'MASS PURGE' IN PRC PARTY, STATE ORGANS CONTINUES

LD261137Y Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jan 78 p 3 LD

[NOVOSTI-attributed article by M. Slekeyev: "An Atmosphere of Terror and Repression"]

[Text.] The mass purge of party and state organs in China is continuing. In the cities there are a great number of large-character wall posters--"tatsupao"--reporting executions of "counterrevolutionaries." They say that after critical meetings these people as a rule receive the "punishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat," as Peking, distorting the Marxist-Leninist term, nowadays calls mass shootings.

It must be noted that purges in China have virtually never stopped in the last 11 years; that is, since August 1966, the beginning of the "Cultural Revolution." They are the consequence of permanent factional struggle within the Peking leadership, and the slogans under which they have been conducted have depended on who, at any given time, has been defeated in the struggle. At first the purges were conducted under the slogan of struggle against the groups of Liu Shao-chi and Teng Hsiao-ping and then against the supporters of former PRC Defense Minister Lin Biao and Teng Hsiao-ping again. The current campaign is being conducted under the slogan of exposure of the "criminal activities of the gang of four" and their followers.

In the course of each such purge campaign against party and state organs, blatant acts of illegality and tyranny are revealed in the actions of the latest group in the Peking leadership to be deposed. Here is a fresh example. At the end of November the Liaoning Province (northeast China) radio station reported meetings of workers of establishments under the provincial authority, held in the city of Shenyang. The meetings publicized instances of violence by supporters of the "gang of four" against leading cadres in the province. Thus, Chang Chi, former deputy chairman of the Liaoning CCP Provincial Committee Military Council, who was charged with "treason," was repeatedly subjected to beatings and was assigned to hard labor. Wang Liaing, former secretary of the CCP Provincial Committee, is still confined to his sickbed after being tortured. Long-time cadre worker Ho Shi-chang, who was alleged by supporters of the "gang of four" to have committed more than 10 "crimes," also remains in his sickbed after more than 1 year. Li Wen-ping, former chief of the Shenyang public security administration, and Li Li-ying, chief of the cadre section of the same administration, were victims of the repressions. For instance, Li Wen-ping was beaten to death with sticks during an "interrogation."

Peking remains silent over how courts in China are directed at the present time. In any case, it is not on the basis of written state laws, since there are none in China at the present time. According to the new PRC Constitution, adopted in January 1975, even the country's prosecution service has been abolished and all its functions have been transferred to the public security organs. But courts and "criticism meetings" are held in China, and reports about them are received. Thus, in Hupeh Province, for instance, a group of former leading figures has been executed. This was mentioned in a broadcast by Wuchan--the province's administrative center--radio station. A meeting with the participation of new provincial leaders was convened in the city in connection with the "liquidation" of political opponents of the current Peking regime. Liang Te-tsai, former chief of the Luta (northeast China) CCP City Committee, has been subjected to repression. Reports on executions and persecutions are received from Szechwan and Chekiang provinces and other regions of China.

Interneine struggle for power in China, which leads to periodic campaigns of terror and violence, has become a norm of the country's internal political life. The struggle continues to this day, proving the instability of the regime. China's propaganda organs admit that, despite the defeat of the "gang of four," opposition from opponents of the current Peking leadership is just as strong in some places. These opponents are continuing their underground activities, calling secret conferences and distributing leaflets attacking the leadership in Peking. Without doubt all this will entail an intensification of the terror and repression by the authorities, which will lead to new victims, the number of which is already beyond calculation.

PRC RULING CLIQUE 'EXECUTES POLITICAL ENEMIES'

OW262239Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 0930 GMT 24 Jan 78 OW

[(Malin) commentary]

[Excerpts] Many observers are again discussing the violation of human rights in China in light of reports about the execution of political enemies of the present Peking ruling clique. In the opinion of our station observer, (Malin), these reports do not give a clear picture of the method employed by the Maoists to suppress dissidents. Here is what he says:

According to a conservative estimate by Western experts, about 30 to 40 million people are detained in concentration camps or so-called "camps for reform through labor" in China. This is an appalling figure even in view of China's population of 900 million. Confining such a large number of people in concentration camps is in line with the theory on struggling against political opponents formulated by Mao Tse-tung. As you know, Mao Tse-tung once said: "We should not kill many people but should give the criminals the opportunity to repent and start anew." In Mao Tse-tung's view, giving one the "opportunity to repent and start anew" means to confine one in a concentration camp.

A Maoist concentration camp is the permanent address for most detainees. After completing his term, a detainee will have to remain in the concentration camp (?even though his reputation has been restored). A subtle method of exerting psychological pressure is employed on detainees in the "camps for reform through labor." Detainees must undergo retraining every day and reform themselves by self-criticism, criticizing others, making secret accusations and searching for mistakes and shortcomings in others. Those who are unwilling to repent are subject to public criticism. Tens of thousands of detainees are forced to humiliate and intimidate their unfortunate friends in the camp within a few hours and are sometimes threatened with physical punishment. All of this is to persecute spiritually those opponents of the Maoist regime who are detained in concentration camps because of other people's secret reports. Many detainees are tortured by starvation. After the anti-Mao demonstrations at Tienanmen Square were suppressed in April 1976, wallposters appearing in Chinese cities accused the Chinese authorities of weakening detainees through starvation and feeding them food containing 30 percent (?artificial) ingredients. Those who are unable to work because of illness are given only half of their already meager ration.

PRC METALLURGICAL INDUSTRY, OTHER ISSUES VIEWED

OW222303Y Moscow in Mandarin to China 1600 GMT 20 Jan 78 OW

[Mitin commentary]

[Text] China's newspapers recently have published many articles on the problem of developing the country's metallurgical industry, and a PEOPLE'S DAILY editorial on this subject is most interesting. The editorial says that "our great leader Mao Tse-tung was deeply concerned about quickly developing the metallurgical industry. In order to speed the development of this industry, it is necessary to act on Chairman Mao's instructions."

It is indeed true that Mao Tse-tung once studied the problem of developing China's metallurgical industry very thoroughly. His instructions at one time were praised to the skies by China's propaganda machine, giving everybody the impression that these instructions showed the way to a bright future for China.

You who are about 40 years old may remember the call "work hard for 3 years to bring about happiness for 10,000 years" issued by Mao Tse-tung in the late 1950's. In issuing this call, Mao Tse-tung said that China's steel output must catch up with that of Britain within 3 years. This is why the notorious movement to build a large number of modern furnaces was launched in China. Running counter to socialist economic law and paying no attention to actual difficulties, Mao Tse-tung vainly attempted to use the blood and sweat of Chinese laboring people and the ruthless exploitation of the Chinese masses to fulfill his goal. All of you know very well the results of Mao Tse-tung's call. The FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW put it well in a commentary: "The Great Leap Forward ruined the Second 5-Year Plan and set the entire national economy back many years."

Why is PEOPLE'S DAILY now calling for greater efforts to develop China's metallurgical industry in line with Mao Tse-tung's instructions? Is it true that they are also attempting to launch a new great leap forward? This seems to be true. But how can China's metallurgical industry be developed quickly? In answering this question, Peking's newspapers have neither mentioned the importance of building Taching-type enterprises and promoting mechanization in production nor called for greater efforts to thoroughly discuss this question. What the newspapers have done is to preach the same old slogan used during the Great Leap Forward, namely, work energetically and be self-reliant. No wonder the current Chinese leaders have unanimously criticized the gang of four's idea of promoting a new leap forward. Yao Wen-yuan wrote in March 1975: "It is necessary to promote a new leap forward in industrial and agricultural production." Hua Kuo-feng pointed out in his report at the 11th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party: "A new leap forward has appeared in the national economy."

Now let us talk about the "opportunists." Foreign newspapers continue to comment on articles concerning the question of "opportunists" which were recently published in the LIBERATION ARMY DAILY, PEOPLE'S DAILY and KWANGMING DAILY. The comments of the British paper GUARDIAN deserve attention. This paper pointed out that Peking Mayor Wu Te, who once criticized Teng Hsiao-ping, is the first target of attack. This paper also held that Chen Hsi-lien is the second target and many others may also be under attack. It added that due to the endless arguments within the party leadership, various factions have had their ups and downs. Under these circumstances, cadres at various levels have learned to cope with the situation and to talk according to the wind. [words indistinct]

Finally, let us talk about the meeting of Teng Hsiao-ping and French Prime Minister Barre during his visit to China. According to foreign news agencies, Teng Hsiao-ping called on France and other West European countries to further arm themselves because they may face the danger of aggression by the Soviet Union. What merits our attention is the fact that at the same time the most reactionary military and political figures in the United States and north European countries are again calling for greater efforts to increase armaments in order to deal with threats from the Soviet Union. In a few days the U.S. Congress will discuss the military budget for fiscal year 1978. Lobbyists for weapons merchants have also talked of the so-called "threat from the Soviet Union" and have desperately peddled anti-Soviet hysteria so that Congress will increase military spending. The increase in military spending is closely related to the profits of monopoly capitalists. Although Teng Hsiao-ping talked about Western Europe, we are deeply convinced that what he said also helps the military industrialists.

CHINESE LEADERS' ANTISOCIALIST POLICY HINDERS PLA

OW290537Y Moscow in Mandarin to China 0730 GMT 28 Jan 78 OW

[Lavrov commentary: "The Antisocialist Nature of the Chinese Leaders' Military and Political Viewpoints"]

[Excerpts] In the past few days PEOPLE'S DAILY and LIBERATION ARMY DAILY published several articles which talked a great deal about the necessity to modernize the Chinese Army, grasp the key link and run the army well.

These articles repeatedly stress the provocative views of Peking's propaganda apparatus which says that a new world war is inevitable and that it will break out sooner or later. From the arguments in the Chinese papers it appears the current Peking leaders seem delighted about such a horrible prospect and they fear that the Chinese soldiers, in their drab uniforms, will one day become "peace fighters." The current Chungnanhai leaders' military and political viewpoints are no different from Mao Tse-tung's adventurist directives in that they both have the same antisocialist nature. Mao Tse-tung openly regarded war as one of his trump cards. He wanted to build a new and modernized world in line with his own views on nuclear war. What is noteworthy is that in order to implement his plan for hating all mankind, Mao Tse-tung was willing to sacrifice more than half of the Chinese population.

While regarding Mao Tse-tung's unbridled ambition as the basis of their own military and political views, the current Chinese leaders have time and again emphasized the anti-Soviet nature of this concept. Hua Kuo-feng said at the 11th CCP Congress that the Soviet Union is China's primary enemy and called for carrying out to the end the struggle against the world's first socialist country. Since the 11th CCP Congress, the Chinese leaders have become more and more fierce in attacking the Soviet Union's peace-loving foreign policy. They have announced that the establishment of a united anti-Soviet front is the general line of their foreign policy.

This anti-Soviet policy was reflected as early as 1975 when China's new constitution was adopted before Mao Tse-tung's death. However, China's military leaders of the older generation--witnesses of the adoption of the PRC's first constitution--all remember that the military and political viewpoints reflected in that constitution were entirely different from the current ones.

At that time China's Armed Forces cooperated with the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries in insuring the peaceful development of the entire socialist community. This military policy was based on the common goal set by the fraternal parties of the socialist countries. Close cooperation and mutual assistance were the policy's prerequisites. According to this policy the PLA's ideological and political work was mainly to propagate the spirit of friendship and cooperation with the armed forces of the socialist community countries. Was this policy of benefit to the PLA? The answer is affirmative.

The PLA was strengthened year after year both ideologically and politically. With Soviet aid, the PLA's various ground, naval and air force units were equipped with modern combat equipment. This situation continued until the Chinese leaders changed their military and political viewpoints. Since then, the Chinese leaders' viewpoints have become obviously antisocialist and adventurist. The policy of making preparations to fight the Soviet Union has become the cornerstone of China's foreign policy.

How has this policy been propagated in the PLA? It is accomplished by vigorously fanning anti-Soviet sentiments among the vast number of commanders and fighters. This is done in order to damage the image of the world's first socialist country despite the fact that the Soviet Union provided tremendous assistance to the Chinese people during the various stages of the Chinese revolution. What good has this policy done for the Chinese Armed Forces? Frankly, none.

Since the termination of cooperation with the Soviet Union's Armed Forces, the PLA has relied solely on its own efforts. PLA commanders and fighters are clearly aware that the consequences of this policy are that the PLA has lagged far behind the armed forces of other countries while trying to develop through self-reliance.

The anti-Soviet nature of the current Chinese leaders' military and political viewpoints has not only damaged the role of the Chinese Armed Forces in China's foreign policy but has also harmed the PLA's domestic role and army-people relations as well. Just as in the days when Mao Tse-tung was still alive, the PLA remains a major political, ideological, productive and educational force. Because of the PLA's strict supervision over the working class, the army-people relationship has been seriously damaged. The PLA and the people have drifted farther and farther apart.

After making the PLA a major political and educational force, the Chinese leaders have continuously maintained a distrustful attitude toward the PLA. They have followed Mao Tse-tung's methods in carrying out frequent purges and suppression in the armed forces.

A few days ago LIBERATION ARMY DAILY promoted the slogan "grasp the key link and run the army well." This portends that a large-scale purge will be carried out in the PLA. Thousands of PLA cadres will again be subjected to suppression and persecution.

BERLINGUER MESSAGE AT PCI CC PLENARY MEETING REPORTED

LD271640Y Moscow TASS in English 1620 GMT 27 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Rome, January 27 TASS--The Italian Communists' proposal remains the same: To set up an emergency government in Italy, a government of democratic unity with the participation of all democratic forces, said Enrico Berlinguer, general secretary of the Italian Communist Party (PCI). He made a report at a plenary meeting of the Party's Central Committee.

The present government crisis in the country, he pointed out, began in an atmosphere of utter political and social tension. The state of affairs in the fields of industrial production, employment and the maintenance of the public order becomes increasingly alarming in Italy in recent months. The general secretary of the Italian Communist Party criticized the actions of the one-party Cabinet of the Christian Democrats, which resigned and which proved incapable of solving the problems facing the country.

A serious threat overhangs our country's future and can lead to such a deterioration of the situation in all fields of national life the consequences of which are impossible to foresee, Enrico Berlinguer said.

In such a situation, Enrico Berlinguer went on to say, parties must find courage to take an exceptional political decision: to set up an emergency government. This proposal made by the Republicans, the Socialists and the Communists found the widest support among the popular masses, on the one hand, and caused concern among the conservative circles of the Christian Democratic Party (DC) and the Catholic world, among anti-communist forces abroad, on the other. Enrico Berlinguer sharply condemned the actions of the DC which is trying to bar the Communists from participation not only in a government but in a ruling majority as well.

He pointed out next that such an attitude of the Christian Democrats is leading to dissolution of parliament and announcement of new early elections in the country.

Touching upon international problems, Enrico Berlinguer gave a positive appraisal of the strengthening of detente and expansion of cooperation in Europe. The arms race which enhances a possibility of proliferation of nuclear weapons is going on in the world, however, he pointed out. Enrico Berlinguer pointed to the danger of accumulation of rockets equipped with nuclear charges and the development of the neutron bomb.

Italy, Enrico Berlinguer went on to say, is called upon to make another big contribution to the process of relaxation of international tensions, and to the establishment of a new international cooperation, on firm respect for the independence of all peoples and all states.

Enrico Berlinguer condemned the U.S. interference in the internal affairs of Italy. He described the U.S. interference as inadmissible.

Further Report

LD292208Y Moscow in Italian to Italy 1730 GMT 29 Jan 78 LD

[Text] TASS reports from Rome: The plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the PCI has concluded its work in the Italian capital.

The PCI secretary general, Enrico Berlinguer, made the concluding speech. He pointed out that the debate during the meeting was constructive and concrete in character, demonstrating the unity and compactness of the party. Berlinguer stressed that at the present stage the principal objectives of the Communists is the struggle to reduce unemployment and to rescue the national economy, especially in the Mezzogiorno in southern Italy, an industrially-backward area.

Dwelling on PCI policy, designed to overcome the prolonged government crisis, Berlinguer once again reiterated the line of the formation of a government of democratic unity, with the participation of the forces of the left. He underlined the fact that the interests of the country would be met only by a government in which communist and socialist participation was assured.

Italian Communists, he continued, are against a dissolution of Parliament because of the fact that premature political elections would provoke a further worsening in economic and social difficulties. Berlinguer's principal report was approved by the meeting's participants.

A communique issued at the end of the proceedings states that the party's Central Committee has instructed the Directorate and the Secretariat, and also the heads of the parliamentary party groups, to take the measures necessary for a rapid and positive solution of the government crisis.

U.S. INTERFERENCE IN ITALY FINDS 'TIMES HAVE CHANGED'

LD271721Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Jan 78 p 5 LD

[Article by correspondent N. Prozhogin: "Another 'Big Cudgel'"]

[Text] Rome--The new year color supplement issue of the Italian newspaper CORRIERE DELLA SERA reproduced posters published 30 years ago by the Christian Democratic Party [DC] on the threshold of forthcoming parliamentary elections. Shortly before then De Gasperi, then leader of the DC, had begun to split the antifascist movement. He returned from a trip to the United States and, following instructions received there, he excluded representatives of the Communist and Socialist parties from the government he then led. The posters graphically demonstrate the "cold war" methods introduced into the internal political life of postwar Italy according to foreign prescriptions.

One of them has the caption: "Clever people vote for De Gasperi who obtained free flour from America for spaghetti, and even the sauce to put on it."

For a long time Italy has had to pay dearly for the supposedly free flour for their spaghetti and sauce. An excursion into Italy's postwar history is vital, however, because of the fact that even now, as recent events show, certain circles abroad have not refrained from uncereemonious interference in this country's internal affairs.

For several years now Italy has been in a state of severe crisis. To withstand the difficulties which have befallen the country, six of the leading political parties decided to combine efforts. Last summer they concluded an agreement according to which the Christian Democratic government would rule. For the first time in the last 30 years, the Communists took part in drawing up this program document.

This development in the country's domestic political situation aroused displeasure abroad. At the time, however, the new American administration deemed it tactically useful to proclaim that they would not interfere in the internal affairs of other states. They even promised Italy economic aid, albeit in word only and with the implication that the realization of this promise would depend on subsequent events.

Meanwhile the situation in the country continued to deteriorate. By the end of the year it had been exacerbated to the extent that the Communist, Socialist and Republican parties proposed the creation of a national unity government representing all democratic, antifascist forces. The Social Democratic Party came out in favor of the Communists' inclusion in the government majority within Parliament. Not having its own majority in Parliament the DC Cabinet had no alternative, but to resign.

It is becoming clear to an increasingly large number of people that the resolution of Italy's complex problems demands closer cooperation among the various parties. However, there are also forces here which do not want to reconcile themselves to the prospect of a larger role for the Communist Party in the country's political leadership. The U.S. State Department, which declared its reluctance to see communists in West European governments, also came out in support of it. This was not restricted to general declarations. Italian public opinion is being blackmailed by the possibility of economic and military "sanctions."

None of this is new if one remembers that about 2 years ago at a conference on economic problems held in Puerto Rico, the United States agreed with its partners not to grant Italy loans if the Communists entered the government.

There is no less mass pressure being exerted on Italy by the Pentagon and NATO. (E. Kattril), an employee at the Center for International Strategic Research attached to the Pentagon, reported in an interview to an Italian journal the existence of "contingency plans" drawn up "in case the PCI enters the government." The Italian public became aware of these plans due to reports which appeared, not accidentally, in the press at the end of last year. According to them Washington in the early 1950's had prepared for NATO armed interference in order to prevent the Communist Party from entering the government. A "top secret" memorandum of the National Security Council which fell into the hands of the press pointed out in this context that the United States "must continue to fully utilize its political and economic resources and also military power to help Italy" in the struggle against the communist movement in the country and to prevent it moving into a "position of neutrality."

The bourgeois weekly PANORAMA, which has published brief descriptions of the activities of American ambassadors in Rome since 1946, mentions the United States' constant interference in Italian internal affairs on an official level. G. Dann "considered it necessary to use all political, economic and military means to prevent the Communists from coming to power in Italy." G. Luce "announced openly that the duty of the Italians is to struggle against the communist threat." F. Reinhard "tried to prevent the creation of a left center government." [paragraph continues]

G. Martin was "most generous with financial aid to the right. In addition, he gave \$800,000 to the "responsible leader" of the secret service, who was subsequently accused of plotting with the extreme rightwing to overthrow the government. "In the postwar years as a whole," PANOMARA informs us, "The United States distributed about 50 billion lira to anticommunist leaders."

As regards the present ambassador, R. Gardner, the weekly devotes a separate article to him as one of the inspirers of the State Department statement. "I will not be the American ambassador responsible for Italy's surrender to the Communists," PANORAMA quotes him as saying, adding that in the vein of his former duties he "has always acknowledged the right of the CIA to finance anticommunist parties and newspapers in various countries, as happened in Italy."

The angry indignation which was aroused in the country by the new case of outrageous interference in its internal affairs shows, however, that times have changed. Despite Italy's difficulties, they are not at all what they were in the early postwar years. To a large extent this was facilitated by the favorable changes which have taken place in Europe and which have laid the foundation for the process of international detente.

It is indicative that in the public condemnation of the new American solicitations as an anachronism of "cold war" times, not only the Communists and Socialists but also representatives of other parties, including the DC, are taking part. Numerous public organizations--for example, the association of jurists which announced that such gestures by official U.S. figures glaringly contradict both UN statutes and provisions of international conventions on human rights, not to mention the pledges taken by the United States in Helsinki--are decisively condemning this unceremonious interference.

It is no coincidence that the statement made by PCI Secretary General E. Berlinguer, after his meeting with the president of the republic met with a favorable response from broad circles of Italian society. This statement said, in particular, that Italy needs to preserve social order in defense of its national independence and dignity at the same time as setting its economic and social life in order.

NEW PORTUGUESE PARTY HOLDS CONGRESS, OPPOSES GOVERNMENT

LD292046Y Moscow in Portuguese to Portugal 1830 GMT 29 Jan 78 LD

[Text] The first congress of a new political party composed of members of the leftwing of the ruling Socialist Party has been held in Lisbon. The new party, called the Union of the Socialist and Democratic Left [UESD] is led by former minister Antonio Lopes Cardoso.

Speaking at the congress, Lopes Cardoso stated that the UESD will fight attempts to liquidate revolutionary gains like worker control and nationalizations. The new party will oppose the newly formed government which includes, apart from Socialists, members of the rightwing Social Democratic Center Party.

The Communist Party also opposes this government with rightwing participation and believes that such an alliance is a threat to the gains of the revolution.

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Lopes Cardoso resigned his post of minister of agriculture in December 1976 because he disagreed with the policy pursued by the Socialist Party leadership which was aimed at bringing agrarian reform to a halt.

'FREEDOM OF PRESS' POLITICAL SCANDAL BREAKS OUT IN LONDON

LD281450Y Moscow TASS in English 1421 GMT 28 Jan 78 LD

["Following into the Footstep of the CIA"--TASS headline]

[Text] London, January 28, TASS--A fresh political scandal has broken out in the British Isles. The London GUARDIAN has published an article exposing the activity of a special strictly classified department of Britain's Foreign Office, whose duty was to wage counter-propaganda against the socialist countries and developing states. It was as far back as in 1947 that an "Information Research Department" was set up at the British Foreign Office following the instructions of the then Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin. All of its staff members were strictly forbidden to tell their colleagues from other departments about the character of their work. Their functions can be sufficiently clearly seen from the fact that the personnel of the department was recruited from among the so-called "experts in Eastern Europe" who fled to the West after the Second World War.

There, these "experts" prepared instructions, which were sent to British embassies abroad and corespondents of British newspapers in various countries. They contained official recommendations on the political trend of reports on situation in the USSR and the socialist countries, in other words, the "Information Research Department" guided the operation of Britain's propaganda machine. As it has been established, its services were used by more than 100 journalists from all the leading London newspapers and magazines, including V. Zorza of the GUARDIAN, D. Floyd of the DAILY TELEGRAPH, correspondents of the TIMES, FINANCIAL TIMES, OBSERVER, DAILY EXPRESS and ECONOMIST. The information service of the British Broadcasting Corporation was not forgotten either. Pamphlets were sent home to journalists without the name of the sender being stated and according to a special mailing list, which included only trusted persons.

The GUARDIAN stresses that the Information Research Department's undercover propaganda activity paralleled that by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, and the question of the nature of its activity has never been discussed in Parliament.

In 1977, the department ended its existence, but immediately re-appeared under another signboard "Overseas Information Department." The same GUARDIAN admitted that its functions have even been widened. The "freedom of the press," which is so persistently hailed by the advocates of Western democracy, has this time again been exposed. But the main thing is that the sordid activity of one of the departments of the Foreign Office, whose aim was clearly to halt detente and reverse the world to the cold war times was carefully concealed from British public for 30 years.

IRISH REACT TO COURT JUDGMENT ON UK 'TORTURE' IN ULSTER

LD182100Y Moscow TASS in English 2030 GMT 18 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Belfast, January 18, TASS--(TASS special correspondent) The European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg concluded discussing Ireland's complaint against Britain in which Britain was accused of grossly flouting human rights, wholesale reprisals, torture and other acts of arbitrariness in Northern Ireland.

The court found Britain guilty of gross violations of human rights in Ulster and stressed that the British security forces used inhuman methods during interrogations of prisoners in Northern Ireland.

At the same time, the court has not passed a verdict on the security forces of being guilty of systematic torture of citizens of Ulster who were arrested and has not demanded that the British authorities should bring to task those who subjected prisoners to torture and indignities.

The wishy-washy decision of the court caused protests of the progressive Irish and British public.

Civil rights fighters were subjected to torture not only in 1971 as the court in Strasbourg asserted. Torture and violence, inhuman treatment of prisoners continue, as it was stressed by the civil rights association of Northern Ireland in a letter to the participants of the Belgrade meeting. This is proved by testimonies of dozens of people who were subjected to cruel treatment in camps of security forces in Ulster. This is shown by the case of Peter Hands and his comrade whose shooting and hanging was faked at a police station in 1976. This is shown by seven days of cruel torture to which school teacher B. O'Conner was subjected in the Castlereagh prison in 1977.

Dublin, January 18, TASS--The first reaction of the Irish public on the decision of the European court in Strasbourg on the case of Ireland vs. Britain was that it was an ineffective ruling. Commentators of the Irish radio and television stressed that the dropping of the accusation of torture of prisoners in Northern Ireland which was proved by numerous documents and testimonies means avoiding to pass a just decision and encouragement of the British authorities of new illegal acts against political prisoners in Ulster prisons.

The sentence passed by the court in Strasbourg has not justified our hopes and has not stigmatized cruel torture to which political prisoners were subjected in prisons in Ulster, member of the Executive Committee of the Irish Trades Union Congress Noel Harris told a TASS correspondent. The hands of the British authorities were untied for resorting again to interrogations with torture which they tried out on hundreds of political prisoners.

UK DISARMAMENT ASSEMBLY MEETING ENDS, SCORES NEUTRON BOMB

LD292047Y Moscow TASS in English 2002 GMT 29 Jan 78 LD

[Text] London, January 29 TASS--The national Assembly for Disarmament and Peace ended here today. It has become an important event in the country's political life, gave a new impetus to the struggle of the British peace champions for consolidation of international security.

The declaration adopted by the assembly urges the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament to be held this year to take immediate steps for concluding the treaties banning the nuclear weapons and other types of mass destruction weapons. The participants in the assembly urge all people of goodwill to widen a campaign of struggle against the plans of the United States military and NATO to start the production of the new barbarous weapons, the neutron bomb, and to deploy it in Western Europe.

PRAVDA MIDDLE EAST ANALYSIS CITED, SOVIET STAND PRAISED

LD280852Y Moscow TASS in English 0804 GMT 28 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, January 28, TASS--Analyzing the events in the Middle East, PRAVDA writes: What is the purpose of the efforts of the Israeli hawks and their patrons at the present stage?

First of all, they would like to achieve an earliest resumption of the Egyptian-Israeli talks and to involve in them other immediate participants in the Arab-Israeli conflict, above all Jordan and, if possible, also Syria. Much was being done and is being done for this. Messages at high level were sent and are being sent. President of the United States Carter even made rearrangements in his recent tour of European and Asian countries and had additional meetings with President as-Sadat and King Husayn of Jordan. But nobody agreed to join the Egyptian-Israeli talks, despite persistent efforts and at times direct pressure. The United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim refused to participate in them, too.

But supporters of the separate talks will not let up their efforts. By all indications, their purpose now is to compel by any means President as-Sadat who landed in a difficult position to sign the so-called "declaration of principles", a kind of a "model" of the Middle East settlement suiting Israel and its patrons. And it is planned to simply impose this "model" on others. As to the destiny of the Palestinians, the Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM wrote that U.S. Secretary of State Vance will play an important role in working out a formula of Palestinians' self-determination that would suit the Arab side and would also be a way out for Begin. Nobody intends to ask the Palestinians' opinion concerning this.

The negative attitude to the Egyptian-Israeli talks of most of Arab countries is indicative of the alignment of forces in the Middle East concerning the principled questions of the settlement, PRAVDA writes. Leaders of the Arab world are aware that the situation has considerably complicated now compared with the one that formed immediately after the publishing of the joint Soviet-American statement on the Middle East of October 2, 1977, when there appeared a real hope of achieving an all-embracing settlement in the framework of the Geneva conference. But they are not going to give up their efforts and join the separate Israeli-Egyptian talks that do a serious damage to achievement of a just settlement in the Middle East and to the vital interests of the Arab peoples. I believe that the idea of the Geneva conference still holds, Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad said in an interview with the Madrid newspaper EL PAIS.

The progressive Arab states and the Palestine Liberation Organization continue coordinating and stepping up their efforts aimed at fulfillment of the decisions of the conference held in Tripoli on December 2-5, 1977 that resolutely rejected all kinds of separate deals of the Arab side with Israel.

Other Arab countries, too, are well-aware into whose hands this course is playing. During the recent meeting of the Algerian President Houari Boumediene with King Husayn of Jordan, for instance, the sides stressed that a split among Arab countries that suits Israel resulted from President as-Sadat's trip to Jerusalem.

All this shows that the Arab countries are striving for a truly durable peace in the Middle East and are not looking for an unstable truce, PRAVDA sums up.

The Soviet Union was and remains a consistent supporter of an all-embracing settlement in the area with the participation of all sides concerned, including, naturally, the Palestine Liberation Organization. This is the Soviet Union's principled position.

'Vast' Soviet Role

LD281030Y Moscow TASS in English 0920 GMT 28 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, January 28, TASS--The situation in the Middle East dangerous [as received] for peace reminds one of a constantly bleeding wound over many years, the newspaper PRAVDA writes. It is above all the policy of the Israeli ruling circles back by the influential forces of imperialism and Zionism that is to blame for this state of affair.

Assessing the situation from the viewpoint of a broad historic perspective, it is easy to arrive at the conclusion that the present Israeli leaders do a disservice to their people, assuming a reckless stand based on the plans of expansion against neighbouring countries. A great deal of explosive material has accumulated in the Middle East, and if a new military flare-up takes place no one can predict how it will end. And yet the Israeli leaders cannot rise above their egoistic aspirations, cast aside the illusions and open their eyes to the processes taking place in the world.

Analysing the Middle East events, PRAVDA writes, it is impossible to overlook the fact that the plans of imperialism, of the Israeli leaders and some Arab regimes, despite the differences among them, coincide concerning their attitude to the Soviet Union. They are striving to destroy Arabs' friendship with the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community so that Arab people should be left without their natural allies in the struggle for political and economic independence.

The reactionary press at times carries pronouncements about a possibility of undermining or even eliminating completely the Soviet Union's influence in the Middle East. But it is only politically short-sighted people that can think in this way. It is common knowledge in our time that the role of the Soviet Union in the world is determined by its very existence and might, that no one can undermine this role, let alone eliminate it, in this or any other area of the world. Arab peoples and states regardless of their social and political regime realize (and this can be seen from statements in the press and pronouncements of political leaders) that it would be a historic mistake not to recognize the Soviet Union's vast role for their destiny, for upholding and further consolidation of freedom and independence they have won in a difficult struggle against colonialism and imperialism.

U.S. RECOMMENDATIONS MEAN 'SEPARATE DEAL' IN MIDDLE EAST

LD271612Y Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1600 GMT 27 Jan 78 LD

[Valentin Lapin commentary]

[Text] A change of scene has taken place in the separate Israeli-Egyptian contacts. Just a short while ago Egypt and Israel accused each other of noncompliance. The talks between the two were even suspended. The Egyptian president declared he would not resume them until Israel changed its stand. But now the Israeli defense minister is packing his suitcases once again to go back to Cairo and resume talks in the Egyptian-Israeli military committee.

The Egyptian press has stopped to [as heard] attack the Begin settlement plan which the progressive Arab press has rightly qualified as capitulatory. As newspapers evidence, writes our observer Valentin Lapin, all these changes came about following the United States' active interference in the Israeli-Egyptian exchanges of views.

Several telephone calls from the White House were enough to make Cairo officials change their tone. American mediatory efforts seem to be directed as usual at persuading the Egyptian leadership to make a new concession to Israel. It will involve the Israeli settlements on the Sinai Peninsula above all. News agencies report that Washington's envoy in the Middle East, Alfred Atherton, feels these settlements should remain there. There should be no mention of them in a future agreement between Egypt and Israel. A similar compromise is expected to be made in the Palestinian question. Begin's expansionist formula concerning the Palestine Arabs will probably be smoothed, but the essence of the Begin plan will remain the same: to bar the Palestinian Liberation Organization from settlement talks and preserve Israel's rule on the Palestine land--the West Bank of the Jordan River, the Gaza sector and east Jerusalem.

Since Egypt's separatist policy comes under sharp attack, the United States recommended that Egypt should resort to quiet diplomacy techniques at the talks. News agencies declare that Egypt heeded that recommendation. So Israel and Egypt are in for a separate deal in defiance of the interests of the Arabs and of a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

The United Nations secretary general, Kurt Waldheim, has warned against creating illusions as to what is happening in the Middle East, where attempts are being made to solve the problem on a bilateral basis. Waldheim underlined that a Middle East settlement requires a many-sided approach which takes into account the interests of all the countries in the region. He believes that a stable and just peace can be ensured only through the Geneva peace conference. Everyone who wishes the Middle East genuine peace should concur with this opinion.

USSR 'STILL READY TO COOPERATE' WITH U.S. AT GENEVA

LD280404Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 27 Jan 78 LD

[Aleksandr Timoshkin commentary]

[Text] Moscow Radio previously broadcast a report saying that a Soviet parliamentary delegation headed by Boris Ponomarev, one of the Soviet leaders, is currently visiting the United States. President Carter received the delegation. During his talks with the U.S. President and members of the U.S. Senate and Congress, Ponomarev raised many of the most important issues of the time, including the Middle East question. The Soviet statesman repeatedly raised the principled and firm stand of our country on the entire group of issues concerning a basic Middle East settlement and the ways and means of bringing about such a settlement.

What is the Soviet stand? The Soviet Union is still ready to cooperate by every means with the United States, as cochairman of the Geneva conference, to guarantee a just and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict, which constitutes a danger to world peace. It is known, gentlemen, that on 1 October 1977 a joint statement on the Middle East was adopted by the Soviet Union and the United States.

In that statement two principles were raised. The two countries agreed on these two principles, on the basis of which the successful work of the Geneva conference with the participation of all the sides concerned is guaranteed. It is also important to stress that the joint statement includes Washington's recognition of the need to guarantee the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people.

Last year, the necessary prerequisites for reconvening the Geneva conference were fulfilled and the end of the year was fixed as the date for convening it. But this positive process has been terminated, and the Soviet Union had no part in this termination. The greatest harm to this process came from Cairo's separate policy, which the United States forcefully supported, as a result of which Cairo bowed before the Israeli aggressor, thus increasing its expansionist ambitions.

It is quite clear that the direct Egyptian-Israeli talks, which took place under U.S. auspices, to a large extent undermined the issue of a general Middle East settlement and struck a blow at Arab interests. As a result, the situation in the Middle East today has become much more complex; imperialists, Zionists and Arab reactionaries have placed big new obstacles on the road to a general settlement. Nevertheless, the Soviet Union believes it is possible to remove these obstacles through the combined efforts of the sides concerned. To do so, efforts must be made to make those who aggravate the situation in the Middle East today change their attitude and be realistic in tackling everything that concerns a Middle East settlement, particularly the Palestinian issue. But the sad thing is that the United States and Israel, now joined by Cairo, do not take this attitude. Instead they work in the opposite direction.

In this connection, the Soviet Union makes every possible effort to assist in strengthening the positions of the Arab countries which want to continue the relentless struggle to liquidate all consequences of Israeli aggression, and in the first place to completely liberate the Arab territory Israel occupied in 1967 and to guarantee the national rights of the Palestinian people in a practical manner. The Soviet Union has been and still is of the opinion that effective Arab solidarity and the unity of Arab action are extremely important conditions for guaranteeing the success of this just struggle.

Gentlemen, I would like to stress that our country continues, as it always has, to give important practical support to those Arab countries which show steadfastness in the face of the dangerous intrigues of imperialism, Zionism and Arab reaction, which try by every method to run away from settling the crisis comprehensively on the basis of the [words indistinct]. The importance of this Soviet support is not diminishing today; on the contrary, it is increasing.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I would like to give as an example what Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said when he strongly rebuffed those who try to slander the policy of the Soviet Union in the Middle East.

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He said that the Soviet Union has always stood and still stands firmly alongside the Arabs. He also recalled that in 1967 and 1973 the Arabs fought with Soviet weapons and that it was the Soviet Union which rebuilt the Egyptian Army after the June 1967 defeat and replaced all of Egypt's military losses in 1973. The Soviet Union also gave Egypt military assistance during the October war. The Syrian foreign minister affirmed that no one must forget all this. Thank you and peace be with you.

MIDEAST PEACE 'POSSIBLE' IF U.S., USSR COCHAIR GENEVA

LD280308Y Moscow in English to North America 2230 GMT 27 Jan 78 LD

[Sergey Losev commentary]

[Text] United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim said at his last press conference that separate talks will not provide a way out of the deadlock in the Middle East. He said there should be no illusions about the attempts underway in the Middle East to solve the problem on a bilateral basis. The problem requires an exclusively multilateral approach with consideration of the interests of all nations involved in the conflict. Waldheim expressed confidence that the way to a stable and just peace is through Geneva. In this respect he emphasized the importance of cooperation between the Soviet Union and the United States in achieving a comprehensive Middle East settlement.

These evaluations from the United Nations secretary general are definitely realistic; indeed, the policy of separate deals has increased general tension in the Middle East. The talks affect resumption in the near future of a Geneva peace conference and have only held up the possibility of a just and stable peace.

Since the separate talks failed, the United States is trying to blame the USSR, and again the Americans are claiming the Soviet Union wants to gain unilateral advantages in the Middle East. The fact is, however, that the Soviet Union has always been and still is a strong and sincere advocate of a comprehensive and just settlement of the Middle East crisis. This has been proven not only by words but by deeds, and if anyone is seeking unilateral advantages in the Middle East it is not the Soviet Union, but the United States.

You may recall that when Henry Kissinger was secretary of state he made a forthright appeal to kick the Russians out of the Middle East. This was one of Kissinger's main aims in his (? subtle) policy and this is one of the aims of today's separate talks. The Soviet Union does not seek any privileges in the Middle East, but the United States should realize that this region borders on the Soviet Union's southern territory, and therefore events in the Middle East affect this country's national security.

Peace in the Middle East, however, is possible if the Soviet Union and the United States cooperate as cochairmen of the Geneva conference. The joint Soviet-American statement on the Middle East made last fall by Andrey Gromyko and Cyrus Vance outlined ways of cooperation. It stressed that a just and stable settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict should be comprehensive and involve all interested groups. The statement said that all concrete problems in the Middle East should be solved in the framework of a comprehensive agreement. Some of the key problems discussed were on withdrawing Israeli troops from Arab territory occupied during the 1967 conflict, guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, ending the state of war and establishing normal peaceful relations.

The only correct and effective way to guarantee a cardinal solution to the Middle East problem, according to the Soviet-American statement, is a Geneva conference. The two countries stressed that conference participants should represent all sides involved in the conflict, including the Palestinian people. Besides, the Soviet Union and the United States confirmed that they would take joint efforts to do everything to insure the conference be resumed no later than December of 1977. The Russian and English texts were alike, yet the consequent actions were contradictory. The Soviet Union scrupulously followed the line discussed in the joint statement, whereas Washington strayed from all the articles and led the situation to separate Egyptian-Israeli talks on conditions which deliberately excluded participation of the PLO, other Arab countries and the Soviet Union.

The talks between As-Sadat and Begin were aimed at preventing a true settlement that must be comprehensive and just. Instead of seeking ways toward a settlement, Israel and its supporters are trying to hang on to a maximum amount of land seized in the 1967 aggressive war. President as-Sadat is now (?saying) the separate talks were called in preparation for a Geneva conference. Actually certain groups hope to use the Geneva conference to put a stamp of approval on the separate deal arranged behind the backs of most conference participants. In this regard the Soviet position is clear and definite. It still supports holding a Geneva peace conference, but under conditions that would prevent it from being turned into a screen that would hide separate deals to the detriment of the Arab's vital interests and the interests of a stable peace in the Middle East. But a stable peace can't be reached by violating the spirit and the letter of the just Soviet-American declaration. This is just one more lesson learned from the fiasco of separate talks.

AS-SADAT VISIT TO U.S. TO DISCUSS MIDEAST, ARMS NOTED

LD291558Y Moscow TASS in English 1525 GMT 29 Jan 78 LD

["Separate Course Continued"--TASS headline]

[Text] Washington, January 29, TASS--It has been officially announced here that the Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat will make a visit to the United States on February 4-5 at the invitation of President Carter.

A White House official spokesman said that the purpose of the meeting of the two presidents is to discuss different aspects of the Egyptian-Israeli talks. He also said that the question of deliveries of U.S.-made weapons to Egypt would also be discussed at the meeting. When deciding the question of arms sales, the United States now regards Egypt as a friendly country, the White House representative said.

As is known, As-Sadat asked recently the United States to supply Egypt with the same weapons as are delivered to Israel.

Commenting on As-Sadat's coming visit to the United States, the New York TIMES notes that President Carter intends to discuss with As-Sadat the need of adhering to procedures agreed upon with the United States in the holding of the separate talks between Egypt and Israel.

The New York TIMES commentator James Reston writes more definitely. He writes that Carter's meeting with As-Sadat will be a Sunday school lesson, and nothing else.

London, January 29, TASS--Quoting Israeli radio, REUTER reports from Jerusalem that the Israeli Cabinet of Ministers decided to approve a resumption of the work of the Israeli-Egyptian military committee that was held at level of war ministers of the two countries. Israel's Defence Minister Weizman will fly to Cairo next weekend.

As is known, As-Sadat, immediately after the visit to Cairo by U.S. State Secretary Cyrus Vance, declared that Egypt is prepared to continue with the work of the Israeli-Egyptian military committee.

U.S. 'To Sugar Pill'

LD300816Y Moscow TASS in English 0700 GMT 30 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, January 30, TASS--PRAVDA's correspondent in Cairo writes today on the visit of President as-Sadat to Washington, which is planned to be held soon.

The very fact of the visit to the USA shows, says the dispatch, that the U.S. administration is again trying to sugar the pill of its refusal to support Egypt at its separate talks with Israel. The committees for foreign affairs, Arab affairs and security issues of the People's Assembly discussed yesterday the report by Egyptian Foreign Minister M. Kamil on the results of separate talks with Israel. In a short report on the meetings in the People's Assembly, the newspaper AL-AHRAM writes that the speakers noted that it is precisely U.S. military aid to Israel, that increases its expansionist ambitions. A number of deputies pointed to the principled stand of the socialist countries in supporting the just demands of Arab peoples and declared for the establishment of normal relations with the Soviet Union.

But in order to "pave the ground" for the Egyptian president's visit to the USA and distract the country's public opinion from the failure of Cairo's foreign policy moves, the local propaganda has sharply increased publications full of anti-Soviet and anti-communist fabrications, the correspondent notes.

TUNISIAN MINISTER HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE ON RIOT RESULTS

LD281100Y Moscow TASS in English 1024 GMT 28 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Tunis January 28 TASS--Tunisian Minister of the Interior D. Hannablia held here a press conference, at which he made a statement concerning the clashes between demonstrators and police on January 26 in connection with the general 24-hour strike announced by the General Tunisian Labour Union (UGTT).

The Tunisian minister said that forty people were killed in the course of rioting. He noted, however, that this number may grow, as among the 325 injured persons there are people in a grave condition. Four hundred people, including six members of the UGTT Executive Committee were arrested. The minister did not exclude the possibility of arrest of UGTT Secretary General Achour.

The general strike and demonstration in the capital are known to have been touched off by the deterioration of the position of the working people and differences between the Tunisian trade unions and the country's leadership on some questions of the government's home policy.

ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA CONFLICT 'HOTBED OF MILITARY DANGER'

LD281802Y Moscow in English to Africa 2630 GMT 28 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Today we bring you the highlights of an article by the political observer of the Soviet Government newspaper IZVESTIYA, Vladimir Kudryavtsev, published in the newspaper's Sunday supplement: He analyzes events in those parts of the world where hotbeds of military danger have appeared.

Special attention in the article is given to the conflict on the Horn of Africa. Such local conflicts have a historical explanation, he writes. The progressive forces and the national liberation movement took timely measures to prevent local conflicts developing into wars destroying the unity of the national liberation movement.

For instance, the Organization of African Unity in its charter opposes revision of borders set up back in the colonial days. It also established a special instrument to settle disputes peacefully. The experience of the past few years has shown that the Organization of African Unity was able in the most difficult circumstances to prevent local conflicts developing into something much more dangerous to African unity.

However, international forces that are against relaxation of tension and that still hope to establish their domination by military means are whipping up local conflicts. They continue to encourage bourgeois nationalism and seek in every way to undermine the anti-imperialist unity of the people of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The American secretary of state, Cyrus Vance, has stressed the importance of Africa for the United States and spoke out for encouraging African nationalism. The policy conducted by those international forces has found its most striking expression in the events on the Horn of Africa or, to be more exact, in Somalia's aggression against Ethiopia. Even before there were bourgeois nationalists in Somalia who dreamed about a great Somalia which, besides former Italian and British colonies--that is, Somalia proper--would include the Ethiopian Province of Ogaden, the Republic of Djibouti and the north-eastern part of Kenya. But at the time, the United States wanted to keep imperial Ethiopia as it was, since the country was America's stronghold.

Today, when there's a national democratic revolution going on in Ethiopia and sweeping social and economic changes are made, the United States is (?interested in) the opposite. It wants to weaken revolutionary Ethiopia and to dismember it. That is why American diplomacy encourages internal counterrevolution consisting of monarchists, feudals and reactionary tribal oligarchy and also all sorts of separatists. Somalian chauvinists have also been brought into action. They decided to take advantage of Ethiopia's difficult situation to realize their big power plans. And so the Somalian Armed Forces crossed into the Ethiopian Province of Ogaden and used the provocative actions of the local separatists to cover up the invasion.

In that way Somalia had violated not only the Charter of the United Nations, which denounces in general the seizure of other countries' territory, but also the Charter of the Organization of African Unity, which is against the revision of the present borders between African countries. The Somalian chauvinists have gone so far as to assert that Ethiopia is a colonialist country and therefore the principles of the OAU Charter do not spread to it. And that is just an outright lie. It's well known that back in 1936 Ethiopia, together with Somalia, was included into Italy's east African colonies, and after World War II it was only in 1954 that the British ended their occupation of Ethiopia. As for the nationalities problem inherited by Ethiopia from the imperial regime, it is the task of the national democratic revolution to solve it along progressive lines.

The pro-imperialist inspirers of the Somalian aggressors are seen very clearly, especially when they embarked on the old road of anti-Sovietism and tried to put the blame for everything now taking place on someone else.

As for the Soviet Union, it acts from its principled stand and gives support to victims of an imperialist aggression regardless of the fact through whom it is carried out. The Soviet Union has always stood and stands for a peaceful settlement of all conflicts and misunderstanding among independent states without any outside interference.

Additional Report

LD281820Y Moscow TASS in English 1743 GMT 28 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, January 28 TASS -The developments in the Horn of Africa leave no doubt that it is an open aggression by Somalia against the neighbour Ethiopia, Vladimir Kudryavtsev writes in IZVESTIYA today. The fact that the Somali regular Armed Forces are in Ethiopia's territory cannot be denied even by those who are behind the stage of these dangerous actions.

The imperialists are striving to use Somalia in the first place for delivering a blow to the national democratic revolution in Ethiopia, which is accompanied with radical socio-economic transformations. The victory of the Ethiopian revolution will mean a strengthening of the anti-imperialist trend of the national-liberation movement in Africa, says the article. Using Arab reaction, Kudryavtsev goes on to write, the imperialists are hatching plans for turning the Red Sea into a closed "Arab lake" in order to control the most important sea route from the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean. From their viewpoint, Ethiopia is an obstacle in the way of implementation of such plans. At last, the imperialists, the USA first of all, consider it important to distract the attention of Arab peoples from the Middle East situation and concentrate it around the events in the Horn of Africa. Characteristic in this respect are the intentions of the NATO powers to win over the League of Arab states to its side in these events. Attempts are made by imperialists to sow discord between the Arab and African countries and prevent the forming of anti-imperialist unity between them.

At the same time, Kudryavtsev goes on to write, the intention of the imperialists is becoming manifest to bring in roundabout ways the capitulatory ruling circles of Egypt out of Arab isolation. Under cover of the anti-Ethiopian campaign distracting the attention of the Arab countries in the wrong direction, they are trying to facilitate a deal between Egypt and Israel, which is one of the goals of imperialist policies in the area of the Horn of Africa.

"The Soviet Union, in common with all the progressive forces of the world, considers that the conflict in the Horn of Africa must be resolved through the efforts of the African countries themselves within the framework of the Organization of African Unity, peacefully through negotiations after the withdrawal of Somali troops from Ethiopia's territory, failing which the world will be faced with the threat of widening the conflict in the interests of opponents of international detente," the author writes in conclusion.

FURTHER MATERIAL ON ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA CONFLICT

Ethiopian Envoy's Press Conference

LD271748Y Moscow TASS in English 1741 GMT 27 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, January 27, TASS--Somalia, which has unleashed an armed aggression against the Ethiopian people, bears full responsibility for the explosive situation now obtaining in the Horn of Africa, said socialist Ethiopia's ambassador to the USSR Tsedaye Meshesha.

Speaking at a press conference here today, he noted that Ethiopia does not intend to attack any country, and its military actions against the Somali aggressors are purely defensive. "We don't want even an inch of foreign territory, the ambassador emphasized. We want peace and tranquility in this area so that our people could be able to build a new society."

Ethiopia firmly abides by the principles of the U.N. Charter and the Charter of the Organization of African Unity. Ethiopia stands for a peace settlement of the current conflict. But the Somali leaders do not want a negotiated settlement of the conflict, as Ethiopia proposes. They are not going to withdraw their troops from the captured Ethiopian territory and give up their expansionist claims. They are now trying to internationalize the conflict, involving into it Western countries--former colonial powers, the ambassador said.

Open interference of NATO member-countries into the developments in the Horn of Africa makes the situation more complicated. Knowing that the Somali aggressors occupy a part of Ethiopia's territory, these countries nevertheless give them moral and material support. Somalia is receiving arms, specifically from the United States and the FRG. And this is the main reason of the worsening of Ethiopian-West German relations in the recent time. The FRG must stop giving assistance to Somalia with arms, the ambassador pointed out, if that country really wants, as it says, an end to the conflict.

The ambassador emphasized the Ethiopian people's firm determination to defend the gains of the revolution and the territorial integrity of the state, to give a resolute rebuff to forces of external and internal reaction.

Answering questions by foreign correspondents, he turned down the slanderous allegations that Soviet military personnel and servicemen from other socialist countries are involved in hostilities on Ethiopia's side.

"In Ethiopia there are no servicemen from socialist or other countries, the ambassador stressed. We are capable of defending ourselves. Ethiopia is a sovereign state, and we have the right to choose friends ourselves." The Soviet Union and other socialist countries won profound gratitude and respect of the Ethiopian people by their having sided from the very beginning with Ethiopian revolution, by giving the Ethiopian people sincere support and assistance.

Technicians, doctors and teachers from those countries are now working in Ethiopia. "We hope," Ethiopia's ambassador said, "that cooperation between Ethiopia and socialist countries will continue developing for the good of the peoples of our countries."

Aims of Imperialists

LD271501Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Jan 78 p 5 LD

[Correspondent V. Korovikov report: "On Events in the Horn of Africa"]

[Text] Addis Ababa, 25 January--The Ethiopian Government has issued new statements revealing the aims of the widespread anti-Ethiopia campaign of the imperialist powers and reactionary Arab regimes aimed at supporting the Somali aggression and internationalizing the conflict in the Horn of Africa.

The Ethiopian Foreign Ministry expressed serious concern in connection with the appeal by Mahmoud Riad, general secretary of the Arab League, to its members to give all-round assistance, including military assistance, to Somalia. "The present development of events," the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reads, "that is, the use of the Arab League states as an instrument for interfering in African affairs, may bring serious consequences for Africa if these attempts are not repulsed."

A statement by the Ethiopian Ministry of Information and National Guidance publicized here says that the slanderous utterances directed against the Soviet Union which official Somali representatives are now issuing are pursuing the aim of confusing world public opinion regarding the expansionist aspirations of the ruling circles of Mogadiscio in the Horn of Africa and of trying to justify the open armed aggression unleashed by the Somali leadership against Ethiopia in violation of the acknowledged principles by which sovereign states are guided in their relations.

London NATO Meeting

LD271822Y Moscow in English to Africa 1500 GMT 27 Jan 78 LD

[Text] As you may have heard in the news, five NATO powers are to meet in London again next week to discuss support for Somalia. Here is a comment from our observer Vladislav Chernukha:

The United States, West Germany, Britain and other NATO powers have been giving considerable secret aid to Somalia for several months. They are supplying it with various kinds of weapons through the reactionary regimes of the Near and Middle East. According to the West German magazine DER STERN, the United States has offered a list of armaments to Somalia worth \$1,200 million. The weapons can be purchased from the NATO arsenal. West Germany announced a loan of DM40 million to the aggressor, and it was underlined in Bonn that Somalia could use this money for arms purchases.

The Peking leaders are also siding with the aggressor. The British newspaper DAILY TELEGRAPH reports that several batches of Chinese weapons have arrived in Mogadiscio. They include a number of ground-to-air missiles. The West, giving support to Somalia, is seeking to bring down the progressive regime in Ethiopia and at the same time push Somalia off the antiimperialist course. The idea is to try and set up another neo-colonialist stronghold in Africa to fight against progressive regimes and national liberation movements. Interference of the NATO powers and also China spells the danger that the conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia may become internationalized. This is already a threat to peace not only in Africa but also in the rest of the world.

Since the Soviet Union pursues a policy of peace and remains loyal to the principles of settling conflicts by peaceful means, it adopted the same stand on the events in the Horn of Africa from the very outset. It has done all it can to prevent the conflict from breaking out, and though the Soviet Union is giving material and technical assistance to Ethiopia this is not a departure from its positions of principle, because it is siding with a victim of aggression. This country believes the way to ending the present conflict lies through an immediate withdrawal of Somali forces from Ethiopian territory and through peace talks among the parties to the conflict. The talks should be held on the basis of mutual respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, the inviolability of borders and noninterference in each other's domestic affairs.

Benefits of Peaceful Settlement

LD271630Y Moscow in Somali to Somalia 1500 GMT 25 Jan 78 LD

[Text] The world at large as well as people in east Africa are well aware of the continuing war between Ethiopia and Somalia, which broke out several months ago. Many world leaders have suggested that this dangerous conflict in the Horn of Africa should be resolved in a peaceful manner. That such a step is imperative has been consistently emphasized by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. A call for a peaceful solution has come from Western countries, too.

The two countries involved in the war have also declared their readiness for peaceful negotiations, each one giving its own preconditions. Ethiopia is insisting that the Somali regular forces should be evicted from all the lands they seized from Ethiopia. This condition is a just and valid one, since it was Ethiopia which was invaded. Ethiopia, therefore, has the right to confront this invasion with every possible means in defense of its land. But the Somali leaders are exploiting what has happened with the active support of NATO member states and reactionary Arab regimes, instead of initiating steps leading to peaceful negotiations.

The Somali leaders ought to know that the achievement of peace would help the Somali people out of the difficulties resulting from the invasion of a foreign country. It would be better for the Somali leaders to start steps leading to peace for it is only in peace that the Somali people could collectively engage themselves in [words indistinct] the political and economic trends which have arisen since the country deviated from its former path. Petrodollars are not dependable. The petrodollar cannot help the Somali economy out of its current difficulties [words indistinct].

HUNGARIAN MINISTER VISITS MOZAMBIQUE ENTERPRISES

LD290742Y Moscow TASS in English 0725 GMT 29 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Maputo, January 29, TASS--TASS correspondent Aleksandr Osipov reports:

An official friendly visit to the People's Republic of Mozambique by Frigyes Pujá, minister of foreign affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic is going on.

The distinguished Hungarian guest visited industrial enterprises and state institutions. When in the Eduardo Mondlane village of "collective labour" he familiarized himself with the successes of rural workers in the cause of radical reorganisation of agriculture on a collective basis.

The Hungarian minister of foreign affairs was received by Samora Machel, president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, chairman of the FRELIMO party. During a friendly conversation the two sides exchanged opinions on topical problems of the international situation and bilateral cooperation.

At a big reception held here in honour of the Hungarian delegation, Joaquim Chissano, Mozambique minister of foreign affairs, expressed deep satisfaction with the state of relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and peoples.

During the current tour of a number of African countries, Frigyes Pujá said in an interview with the TASS correspondent, we came to see the African leaders' striving to strengthen their national independence, to resist the intrigues of imperialism and to develop mutually advantageous relations with all countries, including states of the socialist community.

We could see for ourselves the important radical socioeconomic transformations carried out by the peoples of Angola, Ethiopia and Mozambique. At present these countries, the Hungarian minister of foreign affairs pointed out, are waging a courageous struggle against imperialist circles' encroachments on their revolutionary gains, for elimination of the last seats of colonialism and racism in the African Continent. The Hungarian People's Republic, together with the other countries of the socialist community, firmly comes out in support of this just struggle.

SRV SPOKESMAN REPORTS CONTINUED ATTACKS BY CAMBODIA

LD271503Y Moscow PRAVA in Russian 26 Jan 78 p 5 LD

[Correspondent report: "Continuing Provocations"]

[Text] Ho Chi Minh City, 25 January--at a press conference held here Ngo Dien, chief of the Press and Information Department of the Vietnamese Interior Ministry, told Vietnamese and foreign journalist that Cambodian Armed Forces are continuing to attack the Vietnamese border regions, bringing major units and long-range artillery into the action.

From the documents presented at the press conference, and from the evidence of two captured Cambodian servicemen who spoke to the journalist, it is clear, Ngo Dien said, that the Cambodian authorities are deliberately provoking an exacerbation of the situation along the entire border between the two countries.

Ngo Dien again stressed the position of the Vietnamese Government, which consists of the desire to hold talks with the Cambodian side with the aim of rapidly resolving the border questions on the basis of mutual respect, territorial integrity and equality.

USSR, SRV OBSERVE 38TH ANNIVERSARY OF RELATIONS

OW300045Y Moscow in Vietnamese to Vietnam 1300 GMT 28 Jan 78 OW

[Unattributed commentary: "Steady USSR-Vietnam Friendship"]

[Excerpts] January 30 is a great anniversary in the history of USSR-Vietnam relations. Thirty-eight years ago today the Soviet Union established diplomatic relations with Vietnam, the first worker-peasant state in Southeast Asia.

Vietnam has received assistance from the fraternal Soviet Union in its struggles as well as on the diplomatic, economic and military front. Because of Soviet support, the 1954 Geneva conference agreement was signed and Vietnam's independence, unity and territorial integrity was recognized by many countries. In the fall of 1954, the first group of Soviet experts traveled to North Vietnam. The Soviet Union supplied equipment, rice and other staple goods. With USSR assistance, Vietnam restored or built dozens of industrial enterprises and installations which served as a supply base in its struggle against the U.S. imperialist aggressors.

In February 1965, a Soviet delegation headed by Comrade Kosygin, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, visited Hanoi. At that time, the Soviet Union warned the aggressors that in escalating their ignominious war against the Vietnamese people, they would be faced with increasing Soviet support for Vietnam's just cause. In defiance of Peking's divisive policy, the Soviet Union continued giving overall and effective support to Vietnam in its struggle. The Soviet Union provided North Vietnam with all the means needed in its struggle, including antiaircraft artillery, missiles, aircraft, information, ammunition and transport.

The Soviet Union has always stood by the side of Vietnam, in wartime as well as during this period of peaceful construction. The [words indistinct] of friendship and solidarity between the peoples of the two countries are brightly manifested even now. The Soviet Union has fraternally assisted Vietnam in healing the wounds of war and in restoring and developing its industry and agriculture.

The Soviet Union has assisted the Vietnamese people in building nearly 170 major economic projects in North Vietnam. At present, the Soviet Union has extended loans to Vietnam and is assisting in building 40 more enterprises, including the Song Da hydroelectric plant, the biggest in Southeast Asia. The Soviet Union has supplied Vietnam with equipment, machines and fuel for its heavy and light industries as well as other types of goods.

The Soviet Union and Vietnam are struggling together for a stable and lasting peace in Asia and the entire world and for easing world tension and fighting against the imperialists' aggressive scheme and plot to start a new war and sow hatred among nations. The Soviet Union and Vietnam condemn neocolonialism and racism and defend the right of all nations to be free and independent.

Vietnam is a staunch outpost of socialism, an important factor for peace in Southeast Asia. Vietnam's international prestige has been heightened. More than 100 countries have recognized and established diplomatic relations with Vietnam. Vietnam is a member of the United Nations.

The fraternal friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Vietnam have been further consolidated and developed in the interests of the peoples of both countries and for peace and socialism. The Soviet Union is determined to assist Vietnam in building a socialist society.

On the 38th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries, the Soviet people convey their warm greetings to the Vietnamese people and wish them new achievements in building a peaceful, powerful and prosperous socialist Republic of Vietnam.

III. 30 Jan 78

USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
NORTHEAST ASIA

M 1

YI CHONG-OK THANKS KOSYGIN FOR ELECTION CONGRATULATIONS

LD271533Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Jan 78 p 2 LD

[Text] TASS--Yi Chong-ok, premier of the DPRK Administrative Council, has sent A.N. Kosygin, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, a telegram expressing gratitude for the congratulations sent on his election to that post and wishing the Soviet people new successes in the struggle to build socialism and communism.

SOVIET-JAPANESE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION SIGNS PROTOCOL

LD271526Y Moscow TASS in English 1348 GMT 27 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, January 27 TASS--A protocol was signed after the closing of the Soviet-Japanese Commission for Scientific and Technical Cooperation, which was held here. [Moscow TASS in English at 1143 GMT on 27 January adds that this was the "first session of the Soviet-Japanese Commission on Scientific and Technical Cooperation."]

The commission has noted, the document says, that cooperation in science and technology holds an important place in the relations between the two countries. It has confirmed in this connection its interest in the further development of such cooperation.

The session has approved the "statute of the Soviet-Japanese Commission on Scientific and Technical Cooperation", and has found it expedient to carry out scientific and technical cooperation at the initial stage in the domains of atomic energy and agriculture. The sides have reached agreement to set up shortly temporary expert groups of each of the two spheres to draw up programmes of cooperation according to concrete subject themes for 1979.

'POWERFUL OFFENSIVE' FORCE GOAL OF JAPANESE MILITARY

OW281417Y Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 26 Jan 78 OW

[Vladimir Tsvetov dispatch]

[Text] Tokyo--Encouraged by the Liberal Democratic Party's success in passing bills regarding the increase of personnel in the air self-defense force and the maritime self-defense force through the Diet, Defense Agency leaders have begun arguing for a change in the basic nature of the Japanese Self-Defense Forces [SDF].

Director General of the Defense Agency Kanamaru recently said: Some people say that the SDF should not become a threat to other countries, but how can Japan defend itself unless its might poses a threat to an enemy? Expressing his view more blatantly, General Hiroomi Kurisu said: We cannot defend Japan unless our weapons are powerful enough to foil an enemy's strategic plans.

The Japanese Constitution forbids Japan to have an armed force or to engage in war. The conservative circles which created the SDF in violation of the constitution claimed that the SDF was exclusively for the nation's defense. Today, however, they are openly attempting to change the SDF into an armed force with powerful offensive capabilities.

Japan has decided to purchase 100 F-15 fighter-bombers and antisubmarine patrol planes from the United States. It is also planning to develop a new missile, which, according to Japanese newspaper reports, will be as powerful as a nuclear weapon. [sentence as heard] Furthermore, the Defense Agency is studying plans to build four aircraft carriers, each of 10,000 tons displacement.

At a time when the Japanese economy is in the middle of a recession, the draft budget for fiscal 1978 has earmarked approximately 2 trillion yen to beef up the armed forces.

In Japan, people of all walks of life are strongly opposed to the militarization of their country. Representatives of opposition parties demanded a cutback in military spending at the 84th session of the Diet which resumed after the new year recess. Even the JAPAN TIMES, which is anything but a leftist paper, wrote that Japan in the past tried to gain its prosperity through armed force and that it was this policy which led the nation to catastrophe.

PROPOSED SINO-JAPANESE TREATY THREAT TO S.E. ASIA

LD242204: Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in English to Asia 1230 GMT 24 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Reports from Tokyo say the Japanese Government may, in the near future, take a favorable approach to the signing of a Sino-Japanese treaty on peace and friendship with the inclusion of a clause of joint opposition to the hegemony of third countries. Such a prospect has given rise to anxiety in Japan and abroad. Here is what a Soviet expert on Japan, (Oleg Niyev), has to say on that subject:

It may seem at first glance that there is no reason whatsoever to be worried over the signing of a peace treaty between two large Asian countries that often fought against each other in the past. That may seem so, however, only to a person who does not realize the underlying motive of the agreement that the Japanese press thinks will soon be reached. People who are in the know--journalists, scientists, politicians in Japan and other Asian countries--point out that the main reason for anxiety is caused by that very article about a joint opposition against the hegemony of third countries.

The Chinese side insists on its inclusion in the treaty and makes no secret of the fact that it is of anti-Soviet nature. Prominent Japanese scientists warn the Japanese Government that the signing of such an anti-Soviet document would have a most unfavorable effect on Tokyo's relations with Moscow. A well-known expert on Sino-Japanese relations, (Futa), wrote recently in the weekly (UYOKU JIJYO SHINTSU) that the signing of a Sino-Japanese treaty containing the anti-Soviet thesis on hegemony would definitely make Japan, just as China, a country hostile to the Soviet Union. The prospects of deterioration of the good-neighborly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation of Japan and the Soviet Union naturally worries many in Japan.

And there is now more reason for such worry: The signing of a treaty with a clause on hegemony would be tantamount to an official establishment of a military and political alliance between Japan and China--an alliance fraught with serious consequences. First and foremost, such an alliance would step up the arms race both in Japan and China.

Peking's marshals are long nursing the hope of getting certain types of strategic military equipment from Japan, such as electronic computers for Chinese missile guidance and nuclear arms production, (?special hydroplanes and light tanks). China is ready to allot a considerable part of its military funds for that purpose and those funds are known to account for more than 40 percent of the country's state budget.

There are also quite a number of Japanese generals who would like to speed up the rate of expansion of Japan's Self-Defense Forces as a result of new relations with China. Peking, that formally opposed the revival of militarism in the country of the rising sun, has over the last 5 years actively supported the plans of Japan's military buildup. Maybe it's by no mere chance that the reports on the impending conclusion of a treaty with China coincide with reports on Japan's \$4.5 billion purchase of 100 F-15 fighter-bombers and 45 (?P3C) planes from the United States. And still more reason for anxiety are the insistent calls of certain Japanese politicians to set up a Japanese-American-Chinese military-political alliance in Asia. The Japanese journalist (Sibaka) wrote not so long ago that influential supporters of the treaty with China regarded it as the first step toward the creation of a military alliance of Tokyo, Washington and Peking. Should Japan sign that treaty, (Sibaka) stresses, it would be heading along that most dangerous road.

And now we come to the third reason for anxiety over the consequences that may result from the signing of a Sino-Japanese treaty: Japan and China strive traditionally for expansion in Southeast Asia. The Japanese monopolies are already carrying out an economic policy that the local press compares with a war for destruction. The Peking leaders openly speak of their plans to place that part of Asia under China's control with the aid of their agents engaged in subversive activities against the governments of Southeast Asian countries.

Now what if Tokyo and Peking combine their efforts in that direction and divide Southeast Asia into spheres of influence? And that is quite possible. The Chinese propaganda trumpets about the Soviet Union's alleged hegemonistic policy in Southeast Asia and says it would be the duty of the two countries, taking it upon themselves to oppose hegemonism, to protect the victims of that hegemonistic policy. It is quite clear what such a "care" of victims would lead to. It should be recalled to mind that Japan invaded Southeast Asian countries in World War II under the pretext of protecting them against the communist threat. So there are full grounds for anxiety in many countries over the possible signing of a Sino-Japanese treaty with a clause on alleged opposition to hegemony and it's only natural that Asian journalists call that treaty a Damocles sword over the heads of the peoples of Asia.

CUBAN CULTURE MINISTER ARRIVES IN MOSCOW, MET BY DEMICHEV

LD251525Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 25 Jan 78 LD

[Text] A Cuban delegation, led by Armando Hart Davalos, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and Cuba's minister of culture, arrived in Moscow today at the invitation of the USSR Ministry of Culture. The delegation was met at the airport by Petr Nilovich Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of culture.

'PROGRESSIVE TRANSFORMATIONS' THREATENED BY PANAMA'S ELITE

LD271123Y Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 24 Jan 78 p 3 LD

[A. Baryshev article: "Intrigues Of Reaction"]

[Text] A conference of the Panamanian Party took place recently in Santiago. More than 2,000 members of this political organization, which unites representatives of the haute and middle bourgeoisie and large landowners, assembled to exert pressure on the Torrijos government and to paralyze the socioeconomic transformations it has carried out.

The growing activity of reactionary forces in Panama is closely linked with the increased pressure placed on the Panamanian Government by the United States on the issue of introducing various amendments to the agreed texts of the Panama Canal treaties, which have been submitted to the U.S. Senate for ratification. The plan is simple: By launching subversive activity, the bourgeois and landowning oligarchy is counting on creating serious foreign policy difficulties for Torrijos' government.

In response to reaction's attempts to wreck the process of progressive transformations in Panama and to complicate the government's position in talks with the United States, the country's democratic forces are trying to organize an anti-American front of struggle to further strengthen democracy and national liberation.

At the beginning of the new year Panama's leading trade union organization launched an appeal to create committees in defense of socioeconomic gains and to repel the intensifying provocations of domestic and foreign reaction.

The Panama press reported on the preparatory work launched in the first days of January on creating a new political organization in support of the revolutionary process in the country.

III. 30 Jan 78

USSR NATIONAL AFFAIRS
POLITICAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

R 1

DRUNK DRIVER, KILLER OF EIGHT PEDESTRIANS, TO BE EXECUTED

LD251215Y Moscow TRUD in Russian 20 Jan 78 p 4 LD

[M. Mironov report: "Criminal Journey"]

[Summary] On 7 June 1977, a drunk driver, Valentin Shimko, who worked at Moscow's "Mezhgortrans" transport and dispatch base, drove his truck onto the sidewalk and into a bus line. "Some 15 people were injured and 8 of them died."

Shimko had spent the entire day drinking and at the end of the day had set off drunk on his last journey.

"Shimko drove his truck onto the sidewalk deliberately, out of hooliganism," the state prosecutor, senior legal adviser D. V. Zhmoydak said, summing up the trial.

"Sentence was passed yesterday. V. Shimko was sentenced to the sole penalty--execution."

A number of leading "Mezhgortrans" workers were also punished for allowing Shimko, a known drunkard, to drive trucks.

DRAFT REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTIONS TO BE PUBLISHED FOR DISCUSSION

LD171658Y Moscow TASS in English 1542 GMT 27 Jan 78 LD

["Development of Socialist Democracy and Law"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, January 27 TASS--Drafts of the new constitutions of the USSR's Union Republics will be published this year for their discussion by the population, a press conference today was told by the Director of the Institute of State and Law Vladimir Kudryavtsev.

The constitutions of the republics are being prepared on the basis of the fundamental law of the USSR, which was adopted on October 7, 1977. Proceeding from the constitutions of the republics, new constitutions of twenty autonomous republics will also be drawn up, the head of the institute said when speaking about the role of the fundamental law of the USSR in the development of socialist democracy and law in the country. This will be enhanced by the adoption of laws on elections to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, on the Council of Ministers, on people's control, USSR citizenship, the order of studying instructions of the electorate and many other legislative acts.

It was noted at the press conference that many provisions of the constitution, in particular, the right to free medical services and education, have found their solution immediately after its adoption. Thus, in development of the constitution's provisions, the CPSU and the government adopted documents on perfecting medical services, improving cultural services in the countryside, perfecting training and education in schools and on the granting of free textbooks to pupils.

The constitution expanded the rights of Soviet people in the management of production and in the field of legislative initiative. Thus, after discussion by the entire people a new article was introduced into the constitution--the article on the rights of labour collectives. This article was absent in the draft text. For the first time the right of legislative initiative has been granted to public organisations--the trade unions and the Komsomol. More and more Soviet citizens are joining the administration of the state. Thus, in addition to deputies, taking part in the work of local soviets are 30 million people-activists of the local bodies of state power.

CSA REPORTS IMPROVED ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN USSR

Wages, Living Conditions

LD271630Y Moscow TASS in English 1515 GMT 27 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, January 27, TASS--In the USSR the real per capita income of the population in 1977 went up by 3.5 percent as compared with the previous year, it was announced today by the national Central Statistical Board which summed up the country's economic development in 1977.

Last year the raising of the minimum wage was completed throughout the country. The average monthly wage of industrial and office workers amounted to 155 roubles. If payments and benefits from public consumption funds are added, this figure will grow to 212 roubles.

The earnings of collective farmers went up by 4.3 percent. Payments and benefits received by the population from public consumption funds amounted to 99.5 billion roubles, an increase of 4.5 billion roubles over the previous year.

This source provides the population with such services as free education and medical services, and subsidises the world's lowest rent.

Last year nearly 11 million people had their housing conditions improved. Schools for 1.5 million pupils, pre-school institutions with accommodation for 580,000 children and hospitals with 65,000 beds were built.

93 million people in the Soviet Union are now engaged in various forms of education.

Industrial Development

LD271620Y Moscow TASS in English 1430 GMT 27 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, January 27, TASS--The growth of industrial output in the USSR last year was 5.7 percent compared with the preceding year, the plan target being 5.6 percent, the Soviet Central Statistical Board said today. It summed up the results of development of Soviet economy in 1977.

Labour productivity in industry grew over the same period by 4.1 percent. It accounted for more than three quarters of the increase in output.

The output of high quality products grew by a third. Batch production of more than 3,500 new products was started.

Two hundred and fifty new big industrial enterprises were built last year.

Most rapidly developing were the key branches: the chemical and petrochemical, engineering and metal processing industries. A considerable increase was achieved in the manufacture of passenger cars, furniture, TV sets, washing machines and other recreational and household goods.

Last year, for example, 1,150 thousand million kilowatt hours of electricity were generated, 546 million tons of oil (including gas condensate), 376 thousand million cubic metres of gas and 147 million tons of steel were produced.

National Income

LD271626Y Moscow TASS in English 1445 GMT 27 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, January 27, TASS--National income in the Soviet Union last year increased by 13,500 million roubles, and ran at 398,000 million roubles, the country's Central Statistical Board reported today. The report, which sums up the results of Soviet economic development in 1977, points out that four fifths of national income was assigned for people's wellbeing.

Industrial output in the USSR increased by 5.7 percent last year as compared with the previous year. Labour productivity in industry grew by 4.1 percent. More than three quarters of the increment in output was resultant of the rise in productivity of labour.

The plan for the marketing of manufactures and the output of most of key types of products was exceeded.

The country generated 1,150,000 million kilowatt-hours of electric power, and produced 546 million tons of oil (including gas condensate), 346,000 million cubic metres of gas and 147 million tons of steel. The leading branches of industry developed at a particularly rapid pace: chemistry, petrochemistry, machine building and metalworking.

Agricultural production increased last year in spite of complex weather conditions. The country gathered in 195.5 million tons of grain, and a record-high amount of cotton (8.76 million tons) and rice.

Real per capita income went up by 3.5 percent last year as compared with the previous year.

CSA Official Comments

LD282010Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1615 GMT 28 Jan 78 LD

[Summary] Vasiliy Semenovich Kudinov, deputy chief of the Central Statistical Administration [CSA], comments on the CSA report for 1977:

The national income for 1977 was nearly R400 billion, an increase of R13.5 billion. The increase was chiefly the result of increased labor productivity, without which over 3 million more people would have been needed in industry.

The increase in industrial production in absolute terms was R33 billion. Engineering and metal processing enterprises increased output by 9 percent. Products of the chemical and petrochemical industries increased by 7 percent. Output of goods of the highest quality category increased by one-third. The serial output of over 3,500 new kinds of goods was mastered, and 1,800 outmoded goods were taken out of production. Labor productivity in industry grew by 4.1 percent as against 3.3 percent in 1976. Production costs were cut by about R2 billion as against 1976.

Last year agriculture received 77 million tons of mineral fertilizers, which was 2 million tons more than the previous year. Capital investment in agriculture amounted to nearly R33 billion. The increase in gross output achieved by agriculture workers was R3.5 billion, up on 1976. A record cotton yield of 8.76 million tons was achieved.

The number of cattle increased, as did the output of basic stockbreeding products.

A large amount of capital construction was carried out. With R122 billion invested by all financing sources in the economy.

About three-fourths of the national income was spent on consumption, and about four-fifths of it was spent on increasing the people's well-being, if spending on residential construction is taken into account.

Real per capita incomes increased by 3.5 percent. Last year the average monthly pay for workers and employees was R155, and when payments of allocations from social consumption funds are taken into account this rises to R212. Payments to kolkhoz members grew by 4.3 percent. Payments to the population from the social consumption funds amounted to nearly R100 billion, having increased by R4.5 billion.

'Dynamic' Development

ID272040Y Moscow TASS in English 1943 GMT 27 Jan 78 LD

["USSR: Dynamic Development"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, January 27, TASS--TASS commentator Aleksandr Kozlov writes:

The Soviet Union is ahead of the leading capitalist countries in its growth rate. This is evident from the statistical data on Soviet economic development in 1977. The data have just been released today.

Last year industrial output in the USSR went up 5.7 percent as compared with the previous year, which is more than planned.

If we compare data on the development of the USSR and capitalist countries over a longer period we shall see that the Soviet economy is steadily developing without crises or recession. The Soviet economy is unfamiliar either with unemployment or inflation. While in the Soviet Union industrial output has been going up by the average of 7.4 percent a year between 1970 and 1975, output growth in the United States has been just 1.3, in Great Britain 0.2, in the FRG 0.4 and in Italy 1.8 percent.

Just a few years ago the Soviet Union lagged behind the United States in the output of oil, steel and mineral fertilizer. At present this lag has been abolished. What is more the Soviet Union is ahead of the leading capitalist power in the production of a number of important types of goods. Last year the USSR put out 546 million tons of oil and is now the world's biggest oil producer.

True, a certain lag does remain in the output of electricity and gas but the gap is being rapidly closed. Last year the USSR produced 1,150 thousand million kilowatt-hours of electricity and 346 thousand million cubic metres of gas.

The Soviet Union is ahead of the United States in the production of steel which is approaching 150 million tons a year in the USSR. And the Soviet Union has long since been ahead in the production of coal, cement and cotton.

In 1950 USSR industrial output was less than 30 percent of that in the United States while at present it accounts already for more than 80 percent. The USSR now turns out one-fifth of world industrial production.

The country has doubled its economic potential over the past decade. The Soviet Union firmly holds world leadership in the output of a number of important types of goods.

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USSR NATIONAL AFFAIRS
AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

T 1

SOLOMENTSEV, KULAKOV ADDRESS AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE IN MOSCOW

LD262347Y Mosow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 26 Jan 78 LD

[Text] This morning a conference of agricultural workers of the central Non-Chernozem Zone opened in Moscow. A report was delivered by Academician Lobanov, president of the Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

Solomentsev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers opened the conference:

[Solomentsev--recorded] Our party's Central Committee attaches enormous importance to improving agriculture in the Non-Chernozem Zone. Broad horizons for the speediest intensification of kolkhoz and sovkhoz production and for the all-round raising of the material well-being and cultural level of the population in this extensive and important area of our country were opened up by the party and government decision on the Non-Chernozem Zone, which was adopted in March 1974 on Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's initiative.

The time which has elapsed since then has been full of intensive work. Raising the economy of the zone's kolkhozes and sovkhozes has become a cause for all the Soviet people. The vast state resources being directed here are already yielding a return. However, the rural workers of the central Non-Chernozem Zone have every opportunity not just to achieve the planned targets but also to attain more. It is a matter of making fuller use of these opportunities and bringing into operation the untapped reserves which each kolkhoz and sovkhoz in your area possesses.

One such reserve is to raise efficiency in the use of land. The central economic area occupies a special place not only in the Non-Chernozem Zone but also in the RSFSR since major industrial centers are concentrated here. It is the most densely populated area of the country and the land areas suitable for agricultural use are limited. Whereas for the USSR as a whole there is about a hectare of arable land for every resident, in the central area there is only 0.53 hectare. This is why raising the fertility of the soil and more efficient use of land in your area acquires particular importance. [end recording]
[Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1500 GMT on 27 January reports: A conference of agricultural workers of the central Non-Chernozem Zone of the RSFSR ended in Moscow today. "The participants were addressed by Kulakov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Solomentsev, CPSU Central Committee Politburo candidate member and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR."]

CSA CONFIRMS RECORD GAINS IN COTTON, RICE PRODUCTION

LD271415Y Mosow TASS in English 1308 GMT 27 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, January 27, TASS--The Soviet Union's gross agricultural output in 1977 increased by 3,500 million roubles compared with the preceding year in spite of difficult weather conditions. As the USSR Central Statistical Board reports today, 195.5 million tons of grain, a record harvest of cotton (8.76 million tons) and rice were harvested last year. The output of the basic products of cattle-breeding also grew over the same period: Meat--by nine per cent; milk--by six per cent; and eggs--by eight per cent. Capital investments in the development of agriculture last year totalled 32,900 million roubles, which is more than in the preceding year. Agriculture has received 364 thousand tractors, 265 thousand trucks and other motor vehicles and a large number of other equipment.

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U.S.S.R. NATIONAL AFFAIRS
SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

U 1

WASHINGTON, OTTAWA DISPLAY 'REALISTIC APPROACH' ON COSMOS-954

LD 210000 Moscow TASS in English 0945 GMT 26 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, January 26, TASS--PRAVDA writes today: The sputnik "Cosmos-954" carried a small nuclear power plant which generated electricity for onboard equipment. On January 6 the satellite stopped following commands from the ground. On January 24, the "Cosmos-954" entered dense layers of the atmosphere in the north of Canada.

One of the main laws in creating nuclear power plants is their complete safety even in case of a malfunction, the newspaper points out. This is ensured by the design of atomic power stations and other devices, including those functioning in space. A radioisotope unit of the U.S. "transit" satellite disintegrated during the satellite's reentry in the atmosphere in 1964, a lunar capsule containing radio isotopes burnt down during the emergency return of the "Apollo-13" spacecraft. No traces of radioactive isotopes were discovered in the atmosphere, nor were there indications of any hazard for the population. U.S. and Soviet designers create this sort of technology in such a way that there should be no disaster in any cases.

Representatives of the United States Government met in Washington with journalists and told them in detail about how contacts were maintained in January between governmental institutions of the USSR and the USA concerning the destiny of the "Cosmos-954" satellite. At the request of the U.S. side, the Soviet Embassy in the United States referred the necessary information.

Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs Zbigniew Brzezinski said, specifically: I would like to point out two things: first that this incident which, to my mind, is nothing out of the ordinary in the space age, is fully controlled so we believe there is no danger.... Second, that the Government of the USA, the Soviet Government and other government concerned cooperated intensively concerning this matter.

PRAVDA writes: "A realistic approach to what has happened was shown in Washington, Ottawa and a number of other capitals. This is, undoubtedly, due to the climate of international detente. Such an approach is not to the liking of all. There are press organs and people in the West who try to present the matter in a different way, from the anti-Soviet positions. Using any pretexts, including the incident with the "Cosmos-954", they would like to stir up distrust, fear, mutual incrimination. But such a policy is pointless."

[Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0400 GMT on 28 January carries a similar item which adds "The spaceship and the atomic reactor have become symbols of scientific and technical progress. Dozens of atomic power stations are in operation today, pilot stations and earth satellites are in orbit. It is natural, PRAVDA commentator Gubarev notes in turn, that atomic energy has also reached space. Installed aboard the Soviet Lunakhod and the American interplanetary station Pioneer, as well as the artificial satellites of the USSR and the United States, are isotopic sources of energy. There was a small nuclear installation aboard the Cosmos-954 satellite, which generated electricity to supply the apparatus on board."]

COSMONAUTS' ACTIVITIES ABOARD SALYUT-6 COMPLEX CONTINUE

Medical Experiments

LD271522Y Moscow TASS in English 1150 GMT 27 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, January 27, TASS--TASS correspondent reports from the flight control centre:

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USSR NATIONAL AFFAIRS
SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

The crew of the Soviet piloted orbital research complex Salyut-6-Soyuz-27-Progress-1 is continuing the fulfilment of the pre-planned programme of research and experiments.

Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko are having a day of medical experiments today. The cosmonauts took blood samples from each other by means of self-contained micro-analyser "Amak-3". Then the sample will be taken to the earth for laboratory analysis. This experiment is held with the aim of studying the process of metabolism in the organism of the cosmonauts under the conditions of a long orbital flight.

A new cycle of research into the bioelectrical activity of the heart has been carried out. Reactions of the cardiovascular system have been studied by means of vacuum suit "Chibis". Clinical control during the experiments was carried out by means of multi-functional "Polinom-2M" equipment.

According to medical control data and reports of the crew, the state of health of Cosmonauts Romanenko and Grechko is good. They feel well. The onboard systems of the outer space complex are functioning normally. Research in the near-earth orbit is continuing.

Health Stabilized

LD281225Y Moscow TASS in English 1108 GMT 28 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, January 28, TASS--A TASS correspondent reports from the flight control centre: The seventh week of the orbital flight of Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko is concluding. During the prolonged stay of the cosmonauts in space, physiological indexes of both cosmonauts have practically stabilized and are at the level of the indexes they showed on earth.

The doctors checking on the state of health of the cosmonauts point out with satisfaction that Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko show constantly a high capability for work and are in a good mood. A thorough medical check-up of the crew carried out yesterday confirmed again the good state of the cosmonauts' health. The crew's commander has the pulse rate of 63 beats per minute and the flight engineer that of 69 beats per minute. The arterial pressure is, respectively, 135 by 65 and 130 by 56 millimetres of a mercury column.

The work to prepare the fuel system of the Salyut-6 station for refuelling is continued today on board the manned complex. Compressed gas is being pumped off from the fuel tanks. The cosmonauts also continue unloading the Progress-1 ship and are accomodating equipment and other loads brought on board of the complex.

According to the data of the telemetric information and the cosmonauts' reports, all on-board systems of the station and both ships function normally. The flight of the orbital complex Salyut-6-Soyuz-27-Progress-1 continues.

Day of 'Active' Rest

LD291218Y Moscow TASS in English 1113 GMT 29 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, January 29, TASS--A Tass special correspondent reports from the flight control centre: The flight of the Soviet Salyut-6-Soyuz-27-Progress-1 orbital manned scientific research complex is going on, the Cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko have been working in the terrestrial orbit for fifty days.

Today the crew have been given a day of active rest after strenuous days when the cosmonauts accomplished work to unload the Progress-1 delivery spacecraft and carried out preparatory operations to refuel the Salyut-6 station.

The day program includes medical check-ups, physical exercises on bicycle ergometer and the running track, radiocommunication sessions, monitoring of onboard systems of the station and the spaceships, and onboard documentation work.

The cosmonauts do the cleaning inside the orbital complex, listen to music, and watch videorecordings.

The cosmonauts are also monitoring the course of the biological experiment to study the effect of space flight factors on drosophilas.

According to telemetry data, the onboard systems are functioning normally. Temperature inside the complex is 22 degrees, centigrade, and pressure is 760 millimetres of the mercury column. The cosmonauts are feeling well.

Biological Experiments Appreciated

LD291435Y Moscow TASS in English 1401 GMT 29 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, January 29, TASS--Nikolay Dubinin, a noted Soviet geneticist, highly appreciated space biology experiments which are being conducted on board the Salyut-6 orbital station.

Thus, tadpoles have evolved on board the station out of fertilised ova within a designated time. The moment develop when the tadpoles' vestibular apparatus formed was recorded by the crew: Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko.

Experiments on drosophilas are being conducted on board the station as well. Two-day larvae of drosophilas in a container with a nutrient medium were taken on board in a special "Biotherm-4" thermostat in which a constant room temperature is maintained (24 degrees above zero, centigrade). Over there, the larvae turned into pupa and flies flew out of them on the very eve of the new year. They laid eggs on a fresh nutrient medium. The new generation will go through all the stages of development in weightless conditions. These flies and their posterity will be brought to laboratory for an analyses of the effect of the flight factors on the hereditary systems of the insects, Academician Dubinin writes in the newspaper SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA.

Among biological research on board the Salyut-6 station there is also a joint Soviet-French experiment on unicellular organisms ("Cytos").

"The experience gained and the analysis of all the results showed that short flights to orbits do not cause any noticeable effect on cells and organisms," Academician Dubinin points out.

"The flight of the Salyut-6 orbital station and the docking of the three spaceships Soyuz-26, Soyuz-27, and Progress-1 are another basically new stage in the study and practical exploration of the universe. Scientists set great hopes on such space ferries by means of which it is possible to widen the research programme promptly," he writes. "Longer-duration flights are in the order of the day, and the primary task of space medicine, biology and genetics scientists is to take most active part in handling this complex problems."

Scientific Successes Reported

LD272024Y Moscow TASS in English 1927 GMT 27 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, January 27, TASS--Nikolay Zheleznov, TASS special correspondent, writes: The Cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko already did much for various branches of science. Part of the scientific luggage brought back to earth by the Cosmonauts Vladimir Dzhaniybekov and Oleg Makarov has been unpacked. The processing of the valuable data has been started in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev and Paris.

Representatives of the state "Priroda" (nature) research centre told the TASS correspondent that the network of institutions and design organizations to which the centre transfers the processed data obtained during space research has doubled in comparison with 1975. There are now more than four hundred of them. Geologists, geographers, oceanologists and seamen are among the most active partners. A good deal of requests came from big design organizations which conduct a comprehensive development of new areas of the Soviet Union, specifically, territories adjacent to the Baykal-Amur Mainline which is under construction in Siberia.

The Mangyshlak Peninsula became the first space research proving ground for the mastering of terrestrial science procedures. Way back onboard the Soyuz-12, Vasily Lazarev and Oleg Makarov carried out a survey which made it possible to outline new areas for a confident prospecting for minerals. It is interesting to compare those maps with new data sent in by Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko now.

The Salyut-6 crew received an important and rather urgent assignment from hydraulic builders. A new hydropower station is to be built not far from the Burek hydropower station (Central Asia). The area is in the zone of heightened seismic activity. From the experience of previous photography of mountain areas from space it is known that space photographs show well large geological structures the occurrence of which ascertains many factors which influence the seismic situation of an area.

Scientists' appraisal is that the cosmonauts did a fine job, testing the unmatched orbital complex and accomplishing a brilliant experiment for world biological science. The experiment which was called "Cytos" had been prepared by Soviet scientists jointly with the biologists of the French space research centre. The experiment's idea was to trace how individual living cells divide in space conditions, with weightlessness and an insignificant background of cosmic radiation. All the eight testing sessions which the cosmonauts conducted in the biounits installed aboard the station passed successfully. A thorough biochemical research into the life forms which developed in space has already been started in Moscow, Kiev and Toulouse.

BAYBAKOV VIEWS PLANNING OF SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL PROGRESS

LD270925Y Moscow TRUD in Russian 24 Jan 78 p 2 LD

[Article by N. Baybakov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of USSR Gosplan: "Following the Course of Technical Progress"]

[Text] The socialist system has revealed unlimited scope for the comprehensive and harmonious development of society's production forces.

Over a period of 60 years the Soviet national economy has traveled a path from extreme backwardness and dislocation to a unified, mighty, multisectorial national economic complex based on a progressive industry and a highly developed socialist agriculture. Over the first 2 years alone of the 10th-5-Year Plan national income has increased by 9 percent. The increase in industrial output was 10.8 percent. The average annual volume of gross agricultural production in 1976-1977 increased 7 percent compared with the preceding 5-year plan. As a result, the national economic resources channeled toward satisfying the needs of the public and the further increase in the country's production might increased by R32.5 billion over the 2 years alone.

The qualitative indicators of our economy have considerably improved, the economy's efficiency has increased, and the technical standard of production and quality of products have been enhanced. About four-fifths of the growth in national income in the first 2 years of the 5-year plan was obtained through an increase in labor productivity.

One of the decisive factors for achieving these results is scientific and technical progress, which is a complex and multifaceted process covering, in the broad sense, all aspects of the life of society and above all the rise in the technical standard of production--the use of new machines and progressive production methods, materials and production mechanization and automation facilities.

When outlining plans for the future, our party and government are constantly guided by Lenin's instructions that these plans must be backed up by technology and be scientifically sound. V.I. Lenin used to stress that an economist must always look ahead toward technological progress. The most important feature of our plans is their orientation toward accelerating scientific and technical progress and toward solving socioeconomic tasks on this basis.

The plan targets provide for increasing preferential growth in the sectors which insure accelerated technical progress and enhanced efficiency in the entire national economy. Over the years of the Eighth and Ninth 5-Year Plans the proportion of the total volume of industrial output represented by machine building, the power industry, chemicals and petrochemicals increased from 28.7 percent to 33.5 percent, while in 1980 it will increase to 37.4 percent. In accordance with the plan targets, the series output of new machines, equipment and instruments increased from 8,500 in 1966-1970 to 16,500 in 1971-1975. In the current 5-year plan their number will exceed 20,000 descriptions.

Over the first 2 years of the 10th 5-Year Plan about 7,000 new types of machines, equipment, instruments and other items have been put into production. Simultaneously about 4,000 obsolete items have been removed from production. Over these same years about 20,000 mechanized flow lines and more than 4,000 automatic flow lines began operation. More than 3,400 automated control systems of various designations are now functioning in the country.

Much is being done to enhance the level of mechanization in various sectors of the national economy, especially for those processes involving arduous conditions and those which are harmful to human health; and urban and rural production conditions are being brought closer together. The broad application of modern technical facilities in agriculture which is scheduled in the state plans is having a substantial influence on the life of rural workers. [paragraph continues]

Electrification, chemicalization, the introduction of comprehensive production mechanization and automation are changing the nature of production in the countryside and are creating new professions. Skilled workers in approximately 100 specialist professions are now working in the countryside.

Our country now has a mighty scientific and technical potential which makes it possible to solve successfully the biggest socioeconomic tasks.

V.I. Lenin repeatedly spoke of the need to consider on a broad scale the very rich experience of scientists and the recommendations of scientific thinking when preparing economic and technical development plans. The State Committee for Science and Technology, the USSR Academy of Sciences, the State Committee for Inventions and Discoveries and the All-Union Council of Scientific and Technical Societies submit proposals to the USSR Gosplan concerning use in the national economy of the results of scientific research and major inventions which have important intersectorial significance.

In recent years, under the leadership of the USSR Academy of Sciences and the State Committee for Science and Technology, much has been done and is being done to elaborate a comprehensive program for scientific and technical progress and its long-term socioeconomic consequences.

Continued intensive scientific and technical development and the widespread introduction into production of the latest scientific and technical achievements are a central socioeconomic and political task. At the present stage--the stage of mature socialism--it is a question of the organic combination of the results of the scientific and technical revolution with the advantages of the socialist economic system.

The solution of these questions requires primarily a comprehensive approach to planning scientific and technical progress so that it may proceed without interruption through all the stages of the "science-technology-production" cycle.

Therefore it is important to coordinate plans for the development of science and technology with plans for production, capital construction and material and technical supply, to establish times and scales for the introduction of scientific and technical achievements into production and to specify those responsible for executing this.

In accordance with the decisions of the party and government, much work has been done in this direction in recent years. The inclusion of targets to elaborate more than 2,000 scientific and technical programs in the 10th 5-Year Plan was a major step in improving the planning of scientific and technical progress. The aforementioned programs are aimed primarily at creating and putting into production systems and complexes of machinery, progressive production processes and automated control systems, and also at furthering research and development in fundamentally new areas of science and technology. The elaboration of these programs has made it possible to coordinate targets for the solution of scientific and technical problems more closely with other sections of the national economic plans. We are talking above all about plans for production, capital investment, capital construction and material and technical supply.

The development of science makes it possible to use the targeted program method more widely for solving the most diverse tasks.

In addition to the improvement of planning, a vast complex of measures aimed at the rational restructuring of the management system and economic mechanism is being implemented under the direct leadership of the CPSU Central Committee and its Politburo. In this work the party proceeds from a scientific analysis of the development of social relations and broad democracy in management, and a comprehensive consideration of the objective trends of accelerating scientific and technical progress, deepening the social division of labor and changing the structure and siting of production.

The key task is to insure that the economic mechanism prompts to the utmost degree each worker, enterprise collective and all economic units to participate actively in the elaboration and fulfillment of plan targets, to intensify production and increase its efficiency, to raise the quality of production and to achieve high final national economic results.

Taking into account the new tasks and conditions of economic growth, the structure of the production management organs and the planning and economic links between them are being reorganized. In recent years, considerable work has been done on concentrating the output of products and creating production associations. Many of them are integral economic complexes in which production functions and scientific and technical functions are organically combined and in which specialization is being deepened and production sharing is being expanded. More than 3,300 associations are already functioning in industry, and these comprise more than 15,000 enterprises. In the current 5-year plan period the creation of associations in accordance with masterschemes for management is to be completed in industry.

The active preparation of master schemes to improve management of construction work is now underway; these schemes provide for a two- and three-tiered management system, enlargement of the basic construction organizations through amalgamation, and raising the level of specialization.

The party's daily concern for the acceleration of scientific and technical progress is legislatively enshrined in the new USSR Constitution. One of the most important distinctive features of the constitution is that it sets the public organizations the task of participating in running state and public affairs and of solving not just economic but also political and sociocultural questions.

Hence, the lofty purpose of the USSR's scientific and technical societies, which are called upon to promote in every way the acceleration of scientific and technical progress and to become a school for educating the scientific and technical community and developing the professional and organizational abilities of its members.

Today, when the Fifth Congress of Scientific and Technical Societies is opening in Moscow, we proudly state that its delegates are the best representatives of our intelligentsia and working class who are marching in the vanguard of the creators of technical progress.

Just recently the participation of scientific and technical societies in the solution of national economic problems has expanded appreciably. In recent years they have devised recommendations on problems of reducing metal-intensiveness of articles and equipment, raising the power output of tractors, the development of shuttleless weaving and so forth.

While noting the services rendered by the scientific and technical societies, it is impossible not to mention at the same time the fact that the societies' activists could do considerably more. This applies above all to enhancing the validity of the societies' recommendations and the introduction of scientific achievements into practice. It is known that many valuable developments do not find application for some years and become obsolete. It is thought that the scientific and technical societies must participate even more actively in the joint solution of topical scientific and technical problems and in accelerating the creation of new equipment at all stages--from the germ of the idea to its embodiment in new models of machines, materials and equipment, and ultimately to their series output.

As is pointed out in the letter of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU and the Komsomol Central Committee "On Mounting Socialist Competition for the Fulfillment and Overfulfillment of the 1978 Plan and the Intensification of the Struggle to Raise Production Efficiency and the Quality of Work," it is important to strive for a high level of scientific and engineering backup for production development. This is a duty and matter of honor for scientific workers, engineers and technicians.

BRIEFS

SHIP TO ANTARCTICA--The liner Estonia sails from Riga for the Antarctic today. It is the sixth and last vessel involved in the 23d Soviet Antarctic expedition. Transport operations in the area of the Weddell, (?Lazero), (?Kosmonavtov) and Davis seas will be completed, and scientists who have completed their work in the Antarctic will be brought home on the Estonia. [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2200 GMT 22 Jan 78 LD]

ARCTIC NAVIGATION--The cargo vessel Kapitan Myshevskiy has set sail from Murmansk to Dudinka, the last vessel to do so in the present navigation season. It is being accompanied by the atomic icebreaker Artika. When it reaches its destination late navigation on the Yenisey-Kola Peninsula will have been completed. In the coming season the first attempt is being made to organize year-round navigation in the Arctic. [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 21 Jan 78 LD]

AKADEMIK SHIRSHOV RESEARCH VOYAGE--The research vessel Akademik Shirshov of the Far Eastern hydrometeorological service left Vladivostok today on a 4-month scientific voyage. According to expedition supervisor Viktor Petrovich Belokonskiy, the expedition's main purpose is to collect material and make hydrometeorological observations for compiling long-range weather reports. The expedition will launch 20 meteorological research missiles, conduct radio sounding of the atmosphere, make hydrological profiles and conduct observations on four self-contained buoy stations. The scientific vessel Volna will work together with the Akademik Shirshov in the Pacific Ocean. Several other vessels will work according to the same program in the Atlantic Ocean. [Vladivostok Domestic Service in Russian 0215 GMT 26 Jan 78 OW]

ANTARCTIC SHIPPING--The diesel-electric vessel Almaznyy of the Vostokrybkholodflot administration is operating in the Antarctic area. The administration's diesel-electric vessel Zoldy Rog arrived in the area today. The administration's vessel Knudozhnik Vrubel is en route to Vladivostok from the Antarctic area and will make a brief stopover in Singapore. [Vladivostok Maritime Service in Russian to the Pacific Far East 0700 GMT 27 Jan 78 OW]

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